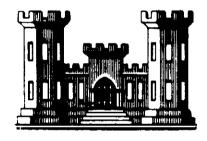
# POST FLOOD REPORT FOR FLOOD OF 18-25 MARCH 1968 IN NEW ENGLAND



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NEW ENGLAND DIVISION, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
WALTHAM, MASS.

**AUGUST 1968** 

POST FLOOD REPORT

FOR

FLOOD OF 18-25 MARCH 1968

IN NEW ENGLAND

Department of the Army
New England Division, Corps of Engineers
Waltham, Mass.

August 1968

# NEW ENGLAND FLOODS OF MARCH 1968

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# PART I - HYDROLOGY

#### 1. STORMS

- a. General. The 1967-68 winter produced various climatic conditions contributing to the flood which occurred during the latter part of March 1968. Periods of prolonged cold spells in early January and again in February resulted in a deep penetration of frost and thick ice cover on lakes and rivers. Snow cover was above normal in southern New England and about average in northern areas. Water content of the snow for the week of 4 March 1968 is shown on plate 1. A large part of the snow cover in southern areas had melted prior to the rainstorm of 17 and 18 March. This snowmelt had saturated swamps and low meadowlands and already produced above normal streamflows. In northern areas ice still remained solid in the lakes and rivers and temperatures were not high enough to cause any appreciable snowmelt.
- b. Storms. Heavy rainfall occurred over New England starting on Sunday, 17 March and continuing through Monday, 18 March. Highest amounts of precipitation were recorded in southeastern areas where 5 to 7 inches fell in the triangular area formed by Boston, central Rhode Island and Cape Cod Canal. Areas further west and north received diminishing amounts but practically all New England had a minimum of 1 inch.

An isohyetal map for the storm of 17-19 March, based on data

furnished by the U. S. Weather Bureau, is shown on plate 2. Mass rainfall curves from several recording precipitation stations are shown on plate 3. The following table presents total rainfall data in southern and central New England:

TABLE I

TOTAL RAINFALL AT SELECTED STATIONS
FOR STORM OF 17-19 MARCH 1968

Station	Total (inches)	Station	Total (inches)
MASSACHUSETIS		CONNECTICUT	
Blue Hills Hingham Falmouth	7•7 7•0 6•9	West Thompson Dam Putnam Jewett City	3•8 3•6 3•5
Cohasset South Weymouth West Hill Dam	6.5 5.7 5.1	Mansfield Hollow Dam New Haven Hartford	2.2 2.0 1.7
Boston Worcester Natick	5.1 4.9 4.8	MAINE Portland	2.4
Buffumville Dam North Reading Lowell	4.5 4.0 3.0	NEW HAMPSHIRE  MacDowell Dam  Portsmouth	3•7 3•4
East Brimfield Dam Birch Hill Dam Knightville Dam	2.7 2.7 2.5	Hopkinton Dam Otter Brook Dam VERMONT	3.0 1.7
RHODE ISLAND Woonsocket Providence	5•2 5•0	Ball Mountain Dam North Springfield Dam Union Village Dam	2.1 1.6 1.0

On 23 March, warm temperatures and another period of shower activity released up to an inch of rainfall over the mountainous areas of northern and western portions of New England.

#### 2. FLOODS

a. Flooding from storm of 17-18 March. Areas in southern New England where snowmelt had already produced moderate increases in riverflows were experiencing the highest amounts of runoff as a result of the rainfall of 17-18 March. Major floods immediately developed in most river basins in southeastern New England and are listed below:

# Rivers States

Thames (French, Quinebaug

and Shetucket)

Pawcatuck

Pawtuxet

Massachusetts, Connecticut

Rhode Island

Rhode Island

Woonasquatucket Rhode Island

Blackstone Massachusetts, Rhode Island

Taunton Massachusetts

Neponset Massachusetts
Charles Massachusetts
Ipswich Massachusetts
Concord Massachusetts

Record peak discharges were recorded at several gaging stations.

Throughout the entire Charles River basin this flood either equaled or exceeded record discharges associated with the March 1936 or August 1955 floods. On the Concord River at Lowell, Massachusetts (312 square miles) the peak flow of 4,900 cfs exceeded the record August 1955 discharge of 4,540 cfs. Maximum floods of record also occurred in the Taunton, Pawtuxet and Pawcatuck River basins. On the Blackstone River at Woonsocket, Rhode Island the flood was second only to the August 1955 event.

A summary of March 1968 flood discharges compiled by the U. S. Geological Survey is listed in table II.

b. Flooding from storm of 23-24 March. During the following weekend of 23-24 March, moderate rain combined with melting snow in western
and northern New England caused the Connecticut River to reach or slightly
exceed flood stages along its entire reach. Stages were also affected by
ice jams at several locations, notably the Bellows Falls, Vermont area on
the Connecticut River.

SUMMARY OF FLOOD DESCHARGES
18-23 MARCE 1968

	1					•						
					Max Lumin	n Flood P	reviously K	own efs per	Maxim	m During	Present Floo	cfs per
<u>#0.</u>	Stream and Location	Area (sq.mi.)	Period of Record	Date		Stage (ft)	Discharge (cfs)	Square Mile (csm)	Time and Date	Stage (ft)	Discharge (cfs)	Square Mile (csm)
	MERRIMACK RIVER BASIN							•		•		- 4
. 1	North Nashua River near Lecuinster, Mass.	107	1935-	18 Mar 19	936	20.53	16,300	152	0600 - 19 Mar	7-97	4,000	37.4
2	Squannacook River near West Groton, Mass.	62.8	1949-	16 Oct 19	955	8.04	4,010	63.9	1000 - 19 Har	6.82	2,260	36.0
3	Nashua River at East Pepperell, Mass.	316	1935-	20 Mar 1	936	19.1	20,900	66.1	2315 - 20 Har	11.77	6,900	21.8
4	Assabet River at Maymard, Mass.	116	1941-	20 Aug 1	955	8,94	4,250	36.6	1100 - 19 Mar	7.80	3,300	28.4
5	Mashoba Brook near Acton, Mass.	12.7	1963-	26 May 1	967	4.11	128	10.1	1100 - 20 Mar	5.07	360	28.3
6	Concord River below River Meadow Brook at Lowell, Mass.	31.2	1936-	23 Aug 1:	.955	8,97	4,540	14.6	1400 - 22 Mar	9.15	4,900	15.7
7	Merrimack River below Concord River at Lowell, Mass.	4,425	1923-	20 Mar 1	936	68,4	173,000	39•1	0100 - 23 Mar	51.15	44,400	10.0
8	Shawsheen River near Wilmington, Mass.	35.1	1963-	26 May 1	1967	6.72	476	13.6	1315 - 19 Mar	8,60	980	27.9
9	East Meadow River near Haverhill, Mass.	4.93	1962-	6-7 Dec 1	1962	4.89	127	25.8	0500 - 19 Mar	5.45	210	42.6
	PARKER RIVER BASIN											_
10	Parker River at Ryfield, Mass.	21.6	1945-	27 Jan 1	1958	5.49	479	22.2	1030 - 20 Mar	5.41	470	21.8
	IPSWICE RIVER BASIN									_		
n	Maple Meadow Brook at Wilmington, Mass.	3.99	1962-	7 Oct 1	1962	5+33	103	25.8	1045 + 19 Mar	5.64	106	26.6
12	Ipswich River at South Middleton, Mass.	43.h	1938-	7 Oct 1	1962	6.99	- 808	18.6	1600 - 20 Mar	7.07	890	20.5
13	Ipswich River near Ipswich, Mass.	124	1930-	15 Mar 1	1936	7.70	2,610	21.0	0200 - 21 Mar	8.41	2,700	21.8
	MYSTIC RIVER BASIN											
14	Aberjona River at Winchester, Mass.	23.3	1939-	19 Aug 3	1955	13.64	835	35.8	0200 - 19 Mar	13.74	660	28.3
	CHARLES RIVER BASIS											
15	Charles River at Charles River Village, Mass.	184	1937-	23 Aug 1	1955	9.24	3,220	17.5	0115 - 22 Mar	8.72	3,200	17.4
16	Mother Brook at Dedham, Mass.	-	1931-	24 Aug 3	1955	92.90	970	-	- 22 Mar	86.86	990	-
17	Charles River at Wellesley, Mass.	517	1959-	5 Apr	1960	5.16	1,470	6.97	1630 - 22 Mar	6.20	2,400	11.4
18	Charles River at Waltham, Mass.	227	1931-	19 Mar :	1936	4.79	2,540	11,2	0830 - 22 Mar	5.38	2,620	11.5
	REPORTET RIVER BABIE											0
19	Reponset River at Horwood, Mass.	35.2	1939-	19 Aug :	1955	14.65	1,490	<b>42.</b> 3	2400 - 18 Mar	10.45	1,050	29.8
20	Hast Branch Reponset Rive at Canton, Mass.	r 27.2	1952 <del>-</del>	19 Aug	1955	8.18	1,790	65.8	1745 - 19 Mar	6.87	1,270	46.7
	TAURTON RIVER BASIN					•		_		- 06	2/0	- T
21.	Dorchester Brook near Brockton, Mass.	4.67	1962-	7 Oct	1962	3.6	130	27.8	1330 - 18 Mar	5,86	360	77.1
22	Teunton River at State Farm, Hass.	260	1929-	21. Aug	1955	13.02	4,010	15.4	1500 - 20 Mar	14.47	5,000	19.2
23	Wading River at Wost Mansfield, Mass.	19.2	1953-	20 Aug	1955	6.22	519	27.0	1100 - 19 Mer	6,60	370	19.3
84	Wading River near Norton, Mass.	42.4	1925-	20 Aug	1955	10.98	1,170	27.6	0100 - 19 Mar	11.45	1,440	34.0
25	Thresmile River at North Dighton, Hass.	83.8	1966-	27 May	1967	6.31	1,340	16.0	1900 - 19 Mar	8,30	2,450	29+2
26	Segreganset River near Dighton, Mass.	10.6	1966	26 May	1967	5.81	512	48.3	1945 - 18 Mar	7•53	890	84.0

#### TABLE II (continued)

# SUMMARY OF FLOOD DISCHARGES 18-23 MARCH 1968

Maximum Flood Previously Known
cfs per Maximum During Present Flood\* crs per Period of Drainage Discharge (ofs) Square Mile (cem) Square Mile Discharge (cfs) Time and Date No. Stream and Location Area (sq.mi.) Record Date Stage (ft) WETHOUTH BACK RIVER BASIN 580 2300 - 18 Mar 135 48.2 Old Swamp River near South Weymouth, Mass. 5.22 27 4.29 1966-26 May 1967 3.98 207 MORTH RIVER BASIN 46.5 1966-5.62 788 26.0 2330 - 18 Mar 7.18 1,410 28 Indian Head River at 26 May 1967 30.3 WEST BRANCE WESTPORT RIVER BASIE 1940-273 31.7 1200 - 18 Mar 7.67 200 23.3 8.6 20 Sept 1960 Ademoville Brook at 29 Adomsville, R. I. PALMER RIVER BASIN 249 50.2 1115 - 18 Mar 5.43 550 111 Bliss Brook near Rehoboth, Mass. 1962-26 May 1967 5.04 4.96 30 BLACKSTONE RIVER BASIN 33.8 139 1939-20 Aug 1955 16.74 16,900 122 0300 - 19 Mar 10.91 4,700 31. Blackstone River at Northbridge, Mass. 1930 - 18 Mar 750 46.9 32 Nipenic River nea 16.0 1964-26 May 1967 6.58 527 32.9 7.42 Harrisville, R. I. 5,600 Branch River at Forestdale, R. I. 1940-19 Aug 1955 10.52 4,240 45.4 2300 - 18 Mar 11,90 60.0 33 93.3 37.0 14.63 15,400 34 Blackstone River at Woonsocket, R. I. 416 1929-19 Aug 1955 21.8 32,900 79.1 0615 - 19 Mar 78.8 116 1100 - 18 Mar 3.52 175 Blackstone River Tributary at Woonsocket, R. I. 1965-26 May 1967 52.3 35 2.22 2.97 MOSHASSUCK RIVER BASIN 43.3 Moshassuck River at Providence, R. I. 0900 - 18 Mar 1,000 36 23.1 1963-1 Aug 1967 4.40 1,110 48.1 4.29 WOOMASQUATUCKET RIVER BASIN 1,400 36.6 28.7 - 19 Mar 7.7 1941-11 Sept 1954 7.03 1,110 37 Woomasquatucket River at Centerdale, R. I. 38.3 PANTOXET RIVER BASIN 134 Mosquitohawk Brook near North Scituate, R. I. 3.46 38 3.06 1965-26 May 1967 3.09 216 70.6 1030 - 18 Mar 410 1800 - 18 Mar 255 31.0 5.55 39 Nocseneck River at 8.23 1963-25 Feb 1965 223 27.1 220 32.7 1963-96 14.3 1300 - 18 Mar 6.50 Carr River near Nooseneck, R. I. 6.73 26 Feb 1965 4.77 40 2400 - 18 Mar 5.09 1,800 28.2 41 South Branch Paytuxet River 63.8 1940-12 Sept 1954 4.11 1,320 20.7 at Washington, R. I. 217 51.8 0100 - 18 Mar 4.67 227 54.2 1965-25 May 1967 4.58 42 Furnace Hill Brook at 4.19 Cremston, R. I. 11.8 2400 - 18 Mar 11.53 3,000 15.0 Pawtuxet River at Cranston, R. I. 200 1939-27 May 1967 9.95 2,360 43 PANCATUCK RIVER BASIN 55 1300 - 18 Mar 6.07 175 31.6 1965-4.25 9.95 44 Meadow Brook near Carolina, R. I. 7 Mar 1967 5.53 1964-2100 - 18 Mar 8.64 850 24.1 Wood River near 26 Jan 1964 390 11.1 35.2 45 Arcadia, R. I. 46 Wood River at Hope Valley, R. I. 1941-12 Sept 1954 7.45 1,470 20.3 2200 - 18 Mar 8.26 1,800 24.9 THANGS RIVER BASIN 500 90.6 Bucks Horn Brook at Greene, R. I. 26.1 1200 - 18 Mar 5.49 47 5.52 1965-\*26 May 1967 3.76 144

<sup>\*</sup> Provisional Data

#### PART II - RESERVOIR REGULATION

#### 1. GENERAL

All 31 Corps of Engineers flood control dams and reservoirs were operated during the two storm and flood events. Highest stages, since completion of the dams, were experienced in 10 reservoirs. In the Blackstone and Thames River basins where major flooding occurred, a detailed graphical summary of reservoir regulation and the effect at selected index stations is shown on plates 4, 5 and 6. Monthly reservoir operation charts for all reservoirs for March 1968 are shown on plates 7 through 37. A tabulation of river stage reductions at selected locations is listed in table III. Effectiveness of the reservoirs in various river basins is briefly described in the following paragraphs.

#### 2. BLACKSTONE RIVER

West Hill Dam and Reservoir, located near Uxbridge, Massachusetts, stored all runoff from the West River during the flood. Controlling a drainage area less than 10 percent of the lower basin it is estimated that flood stages were reduced about 1 foot from Woonsocket to Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

The Worcester Diversion project on Kettle Brook, experiencing its highest flows since completion, bypassed discharges from the congested Webster Square area and Middle River in Worcester through a tunnel and channel to the Blackstone River at Millbury, Massachusetts.

#### 3. THAMES RIVER

Five reservoirs, namely, Buffumville, Hodges Village, East Brimfield, Westville and West Thompson stored floodwaters in the upper Quinebaug

and French River watersheds. It is estimated that Buffumville and Hodges Village reduced the stage at the USGS gaging station on the French River at Webster, Massachusetts by 6 feet, a substantial reduction. At Putnam, Connecticut the effect of all 5 reservoirs lowered the river stage by 6 feet.

In the Shetucket River watershed, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir reduced the stage of the Shetucket River in Willimantic, Connecticut by approximately  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet.

#### 4. CONNECTICUT RIVER

Reservoirs were regulated to restrict outflow during the first rise following snowmelt and rainfall of 17-18 March. Outflow was regulated at all dams following the additional rainfall on 23 March and development of an ice jam on the Connecticut River upstream of Bellows Falls, Vermont. The Connecticut River crested well above flood stages in areas affected by the ice jams, but about flood stage below Bellows Falls. The river was 4 feet above flood stage at Montague City, Massachusetts and approximately flood stage in southern Massachusetts and Connecticut. Without Corps of Engineers regulation, it is estimated that river stages would have been 1 to 2 feet higher. The reservoirs also effectively reduced flood stages in cities and towns on tributaries of the Connecticut River.

#### 5. MERRIMACK RIVER

All reservoirs on the Contoocook River, namely, MacDowell, Blackwater and Hopkinton-Everett were regulated to alleviate ice jam conditions in Peterboro, New Hampshire and to control flow in the Merrimack River from Concord, New Hampshire to the mouth of the river in Massachusetts.

TABLE III

FLOOD OF MARCH 1968

EFFECT OF REGULATED PROJECTS AT SELECTED LOCATIONS

	Experienced C	onditions	_Natural Com		
Location	Discharge	Stage (ft)	Discharge (cfs)	Stage (ft)	Flood Stage (ft)
THAMES RIVER BASIN					
American Optical Dam Quinebaug River at Southbridge, Mass.	1,500		4,500		-
USGS Gaging Station Quinebaug River at Putnam, Conn.	3,200	7• <u>8</u>	11,200	14.3	11.5
USGS Gaging Station French River at Webster, Mass.	1,050	<b>7.</b> 8	3,850	14	8
USGS Gaging Station Shetucket River at Willimantic, Conn.	4,900	8•3	10,000	11.9	10
BLACKSTONE RIVER BASIN					
USGS Gaging Station Blackstone River at Woonsocket, R. I.	15,400	14.63	16,900	15.5	9
Webster Street Bridge Middle River at Worcester, Mass.	1,000**		2,400 <del>**</del>		-
CONNECTICUT RIVER BASIN					
USGS Gaging Station Connecticut River at Montague City, Mass.	101,500	32.1	111,000	33•7	28
Holyoke Water Co. Dam Holyoke, Mass.	94,500	9.2	103,500	9.8	9
USWB Gage Connecticut River at Hartford, Conn. (w/Bodkin Rock Discharge)	102,000	21.6	107,000	22.2	22

<sup>\*</sup> Discharges and stages that would have occurred without Corps of Engineers flood control projects

<sup>\*\*</sup> Estimated

Observed river stages in the lower basin were about 1 foot below flood levels. Without regulation, the river would have been about flood stage.

# 6. NAUGATUCK RIVER

Discharges were impounded in Thomaston Reservoir and the smaller ungated dam projects. Although stages in the lower Naugatuck River were reduced by several feet, flood stages would not have occurred without regulation.

#### PART III - FLOOD LOSSES

#### 1. GENERAL

Damages due to floodwaters from the storm of 17-19 March were widespread and substantial although only in the case of a dam failure in East Lee, Massachusetts on the Sunday (24 March) following the storm was loss of life and a heavy concentration of damage in a small area involved. The primary storm was centered over eastern Massachusetts and in this area floodflows peaked rapidly. The northern and western fringes of the storm, bringing rain to the Connecticut River basin and western Massachusetts, set the stage for additional rainfall and melting snow in these areas late in the week of 17-23 March to apparently contribute to the dam failure and cause high flows in the Connecticut River basin with two serious ice jams resulting. There was a less spectacular dam failure in Easton, Massachusetts, a community some 15 miles south of Boston. Located above a residential area the broken dam released a wall of water which damaged over 50 homes and caused evacuation of many others.

While flood swollen streams caused much of the loss to properties adjacent to the streams, a surprising amount of damage was done to properties which the owners did not even realize were flood prone. This was brought about over the years as inland wetlands were filled in and developed for housing and industrial parks, especially in eastern Massachusetts. Many of these developments are some distance from major streams and the threat of flooding was not apparent. Moreover, the first half of the 1960 decade was a time of drought in the Northeast and

this tended to mask the problem as ground water levels were at record lows during the period. With the return to normal levels in 1967 the area needed only a major storm with rapid runoff to be in real trouble.

Generally, not too much development has taken place in recent years in the well defined flood plains of the region's major streams. This is not to say the major flood plains are vacant; the older industrial and commercial plant which originally developed the areas is still there and in some cases has expanded. These properties are so operated as to minimize flood losses and only a major flood would cause heavy damages. Only the Blackstone of the region's major streams had sizeable flood losses in the March 1968 event.

It was the region's small streams which caused the bulk of losses reported in the flood. Two factors contributed greatly to the problem, development of the wetlands, already noted, and in the built-up urban areas, a good deal of encroachment of the actual channels of the streams by dumps, parking areas and similar developments. Some measure of the effects of these trespasses on the flood plain can be grasped by noting that of 43 minor streams reported on by the Geological Survey in the March event 29 had record flows (see table 2). While the records for some of the streams are short, the trend toward increased concentration of runoff caused by urban development is marked.

#### 2. FIELD INVESTIGATIONS

During the week of 17-23 March two-man parties were dispatched to areas with reported flood problems. Eight such parties were so used, mainly during the period of 19-24 March. Their basic mission was

observation, establishment of high watermarks for future use, usable photographs and collection of such information on probable losses as was readily available. The area covered was generally in eastern and central Massachusetts and the northern portion of Rhode Island. Following the field reconnaissance, reports covering each trip were prepared by the fieldmen with copies furnished to the Hydrology and Hydraulics Branch and Economics Section for future use.

#### 3. LOSS ANALYSIS

The loss data used for this report are based on: (a) Stage-loss data for rivers and streams on which studies have been made in the past for survey reports, (b) analysis of photographs and reports resulting from field investigations of 19-24 March supplemented by discussions with the field personnel, (c) verifiable reports by State Civil Defense Authorities, and (d) newspaper reports and photographs.

In evaluating loss items based on newspaper reports certain unit values based on judgment and past damage surveys were used. For houses with reported basement flooding only, a unit loss of \$300 was assumed. For houses which were surrounded by water the unit loss was assumed to be \$1,000. No attempt was made to analyze the depreciation in value in either case. For commercial and industrial properties available data on other plants in the files were used as a guide.

For the Blackstone, French, Quinebaug, Shetucket, Nashua, Sudbury, Assabet, Concord and Shawsheen Rivers loss estimates (and damages prevented) were estimated directly from the file of the Economics Section using data on stages furnished by the Hydrology Branch.

#### 4. FLOOD LOSSES

a. General. Estimated flood losses in the March event amounted to \$45 million. The loss breakdowns by states are as follows:

Massachusetts	\$35,000,000
Connecticut	100,000
Rhode Island	9,000,000
New Hampshire	800,000
Vermont	100,000

By major categories the losses amounted to:

Industrial	\$ 9,500,000
Commercial	2,500,000
Residential	28,500,000
Public	4,500,000

Two lives were lost in the town of Lee, Massachusetts.

The total figure for residential losses reflects the effect of the wetlands development previously commented on. On 19 March, State Civil Defense Headquarters for Massachusetts estimated that 20,000 homes had received storm damage. Later in the week Civil Defense authorities placed the total number of homes with "basement damage" at 30 to 40,000 in all New England. About 5,000 of these homes were in the flood plains adjacent to the region's streams and could be accounted for as to amount and location. Using the lower Civil Defense estimate of 30,000 homes means losses to 25,000 dwellings in developed wetlands. The bulk of these are in Massachusetts. In evaluating losses to these homes it was noted that most would be relatively new and that current trends in

building included "family rooms" or playrooms with finished floors and walls in basements. That some of the homes would be split level was also considered. A unit loss value of \$1,000 was therefore used. Some of the areas of concentrated losses are noted below.

- b. Lee, Massachusetts (Housatonic River basin). The failure of a private dam at a real estate development called "Lake Lee" in the eastern part of Lee caused havor in this western Massachusetts community of 6,000 people. A mile long section of Route Massachusetts-U.S. 20, one of the region's principal east-west roads, was badly damaged, 5 houses were destroyed, 34 other homes damaged and a medium sized industrial plant was almost gutted by the wave of water which swept down normally placid Greenwater Pond Brook and Goose Pond Brook. Two elderly people in one of the destroyed homes were killed. Losses were estimated to exceed \$7 million.
- c. Braintree-Weymouth area, Massachusetts. These adjoining communities on the south shore of Boston Harbor have been increasingly built over in the past two decades and have doubled their population in that period. Their combined population is approaching 90,000 people. Encroachment on the flood plain, inadequate sized culverts and high flows on Smelt Brook and Monantiquot River caused losses estimated at \$2 million. The largest losses were experienced in the central business area at Weymouth Landing where depths up to 4 feet of water in the streets flooded stores and brought business to a standstill.
- d. Olneyville (Providence), Rhode Island. The channel of the Woonasquatucket River in the Olneyville section of Providence has been

greatly restricted by indiscriminate dumping over the years. When the highest flow of 27 years of record occurred on 19 March the basements of several old manufacturing plants now used for storage and light industrial production by several tenants were flooded. Damages were estimated at \$2,500,000 principally to stored materials.

e. Taunton, Massachusetts. This industrial city in southeastern
Massachusetts was the site of a week-long emergency as city, state and
Federal officials fought to prevent failure of two old dams on the
Taunton River lying above the heart of the city. The area downstream of
the dam was evacuated. Direct costs of the flood exceeded \$900,000.
This figure includes \$832,000 which the Mayor of Taunton reported to Civil
Defense authorities based on estimates from his department heads and
covers the costs of the flood fighting plus the anticipated costs of
cleanup and repairs. The business losses were not estimated. The Corps
provided major technical assistance to state and local officials, at
their requests, in this successful flood fight.

#### 5. DAMAGES PREVENTED

During the flood event all flood control reservoirs in the New England Division were operated although in the case of those located in northern New Hampshire and Vermont the operation was only a precautionary measure. This also held true for the Naugatuck River basin.

In the Blackstone, Thames and lower Connecticut River basins Corps projects prevented substantial losses in communities along the main stems of the rivers and their principal tributaries.

In Canton, Massachusetts a diversion project built by the Corps

under a Section 205 authority prevented losses estimated at \$2,500,000.

In the Thames River basin all Corps dams were operated effectively and damages in the amount of \$7 million were prevented.

In the Connecticut River basin the system of reservoirs and local protection works prevented losses estimated at \$6,500,000.

Total damages prevented during the flood amount to \$24 million.

#### PART IV - EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

#### 1. GENERAL

The emergency operations generated by the March floods consisted of technical assistance and advice to states and municipalities, the furnishing of sandbags to the Massachusetts Civil Defense Agency, and the survey of damages and estimates of cost of possible remedial work. The cost estimates were provided at the request of the Office of Emergency Planning. A great number of calls for information or advice were received, and the principal areas of such requests are briefly summarized in the succeeding paragraphs.

Ice jams had formed at several areas in New England during the winter causing concern as to possible flooding, particularly at the time of spring thaw and runoff. The New England Division had sent letters prior to the March flooding to the Governors of the six states advising of the possibility and the extent of assistance the Corps could provide, the limitations on such assistance, and the responsibilities of the municipalities and the states in this field. The first four specific areas of flooding or potential flooding listed below were due to or aggravated by ice jams.

#### 2. LANCASTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

An ice jam that had been a source of concern and was under periodic surveillance by the Corps of Engineers all winter caused flooding in the center of town. There was no destruction of structures or bridges, but damages due to submersion were significant.

# 3. CHERRYFIELD, MAINE

The most severe ice jam of several years threatened the U. S. Route 1 highway bridge, but broke up and went out to sea during the March thaw without damage to the bridge. There was some flooding of properties and roads adjacent to the Narraguagus River, with relatively minor damages.

A Federal local protection project consisting of a dam just upriver of the center of town, built by the Corps in 1961, prevented more severe damage from ice in the upper river.

### 4. FRYEBURG, MAINE

Ice jams on the Saco River impounded water in the Fryeburg area to elevations threatening residential property in that region. Although the river and tributary pond areas reached levels only attained at a frequency of about 10 years, no flooding of developed property occurred. The State and local officials were advised to study the possibility of modified operation of a power dam on Saco River and other measures that might minimize future susceptibility to similar impoundments.

# 5. CONNECTICUT RIVER - BELLOWS FALLS, VERMONT

An ice jam in the vicinity of Bellows Falls, Vermont contributed to the rise in river levels to flood stage in March. As the jam broke and passed down river, some minor damage was occasioned along the immediate riverbanks.

# 6. DAM FAILURE - LEE, MASSACHUSETTS

A privately-owned earth dam built to create an artificial lake at a housing development failed suddenly a few days after the period of heavy March rains in that area. The Corps and the Office of Emergency Planning

made joint surveys of the damages caused, and estimates were furnished to the Office of Emergency Planning. The highway repairs and stream clearing were performed by the Massachusetts Department of Public Works. No direct Federal assistance was found to be required. As a result of this dam failure, the State initiated a program to review the adequacy and safety of the hundreds of private dams in the State and to establish improved criteria for construction and maintenance.

## 7. TAUNTON, MASSACHUSETTS

The city of Taunton informally requested and was provided around the clock advice and guidance in its flood fighting activities for over a week. The city was threatened with the imminent failure of two private dams on the Taunton River just above the center of the city. Measures suggested by the Corps advisory team at the site and undertaken by the city to relieve pressures on these dams was generally credited with the success in preserving these structures through the period of emergency.

#### 8. SANDBAG OPERATIONS

The Massachusetts Civil Defense Administration requested and was provided 102,600 sandbags from the Corps of Engineers stockpile at Fort Devens during the 5-day emergency period 18-23 March. The Civil Defense cleared their requests through the Office of Emergency Planning and in behalf of 30 separate cities and towns in Massachusetts. The sandbags were transported and temporarily stored by the Massachusetts Department of Public Works at its Wellesley depot. The sandbags were provided and accepted with the clear understanding that they would be returned or that the Corps would be reimbursed for their cost. A tabulation of the

widespread use of the sandbags by the various towns follows:

Andover	200	Lowell	2,000
Ashland	600	Maynard	1,600
Attleboro	1,000	Natick	2,000
Bedford	10,000	Needham	6,000
Beverly	1,000	Newton	6,000
Billerica	6,400	Saugus	1,000
Boston	2,400	Stowe	200
Canton	1,000	Sudbury	<b>150</b>
Dedham	6,000	Taunton	2,600
Dover	2,000	Tewksbury	3,200
Easton	600	Waltham	6,000
Framingham	1,000	Watertown	8,000
Freetown	600	Wayland	10,000
Hamilton	200	Wellesley	4,000
Ipswich	1,000	Westford	600

# 9. HEADQUARTERS OPERATION DURING FLOOD EMERGENCY

on 19 March, a total of 8 teams of engineers were dispatched from Headquarters to specific locations where reports indicated emergency conditions might exist. These teams were sent out primarily as observers. As trouble spots developed teams were dispatched on 20, 21 and 22 March for the purpose of having Corps representation in the field. The number of teams in the field varied from 4 to 8 at any one time. Over the week-end of 22-25 March an around-the-clock telephone watch was maintained to monitor incoming telephone calls. This was in addition to the overtime Headquarters staff (Reservoir Regulation Section) which was on hand during the normal work week of 19-23 March.

Subsequent to the flood period a total of ten 2-man parties were sent out to mark and record high watermarks. This was accomplished over a

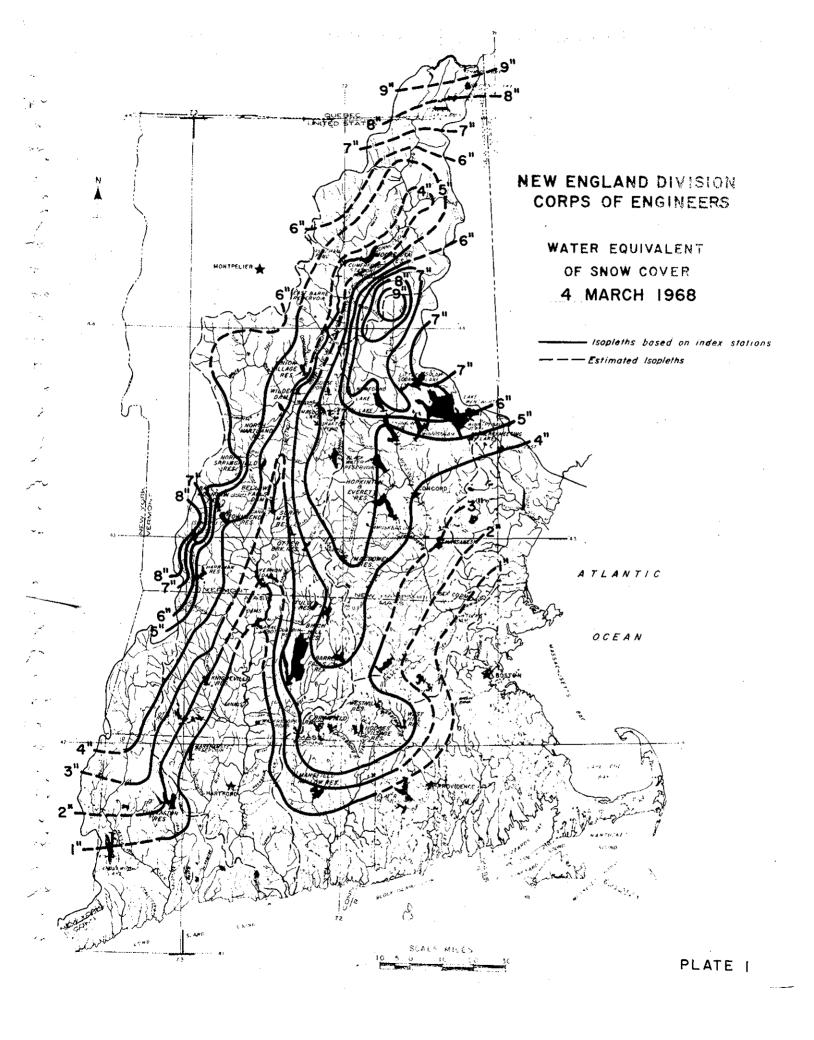
10-day period. Actual leveling in of the marks will be accomplished as funds become available.

# 10. GENERAL SUMMARY

The emergency operations aspect of the flooding of March 1968 continually bordered on, but never actually crossed over into that stage where the Corps would take actual control of flood fighting activities.

# PART V - FLOOD PROFILES

(To be submitted at a later date)



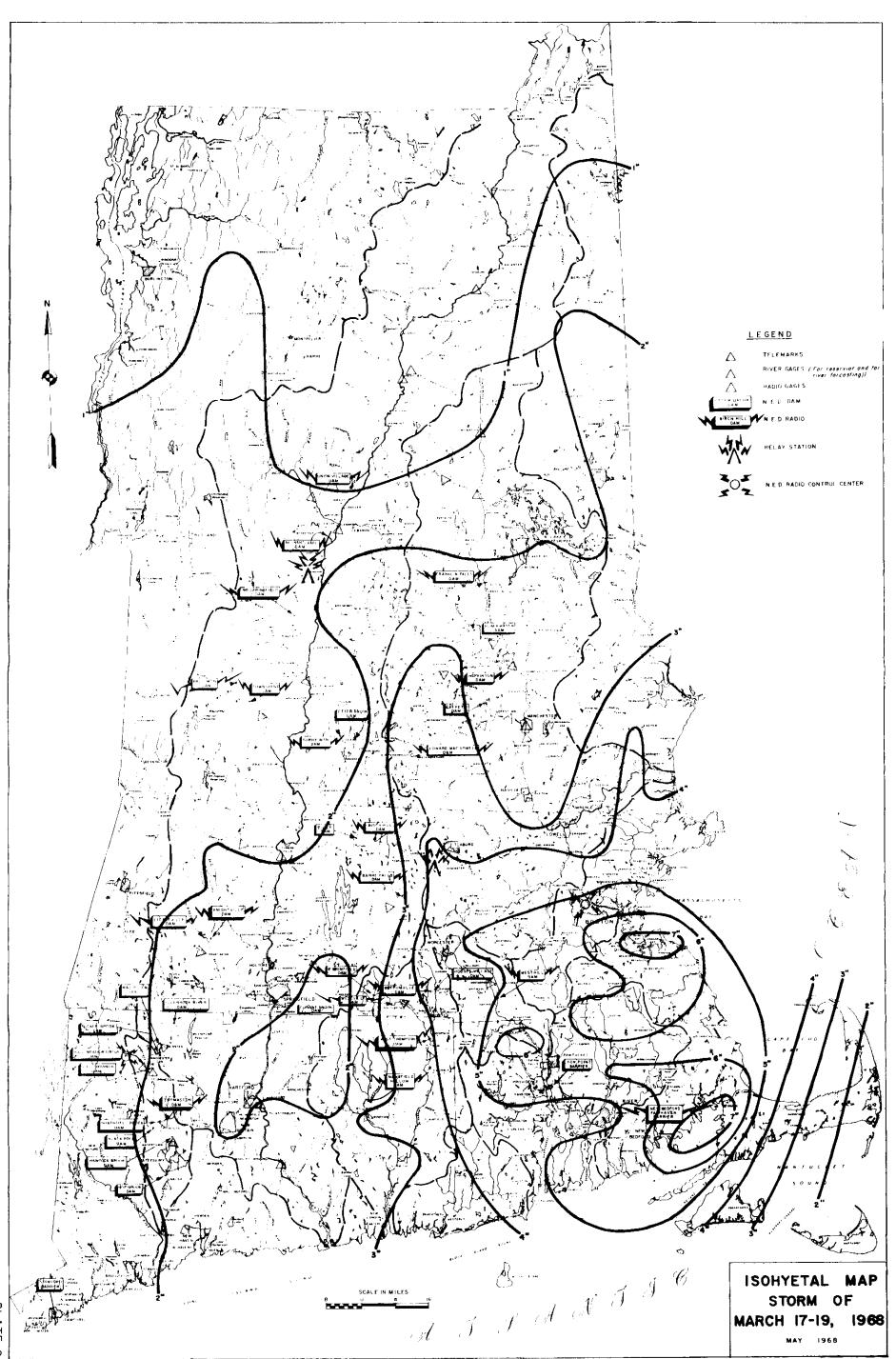
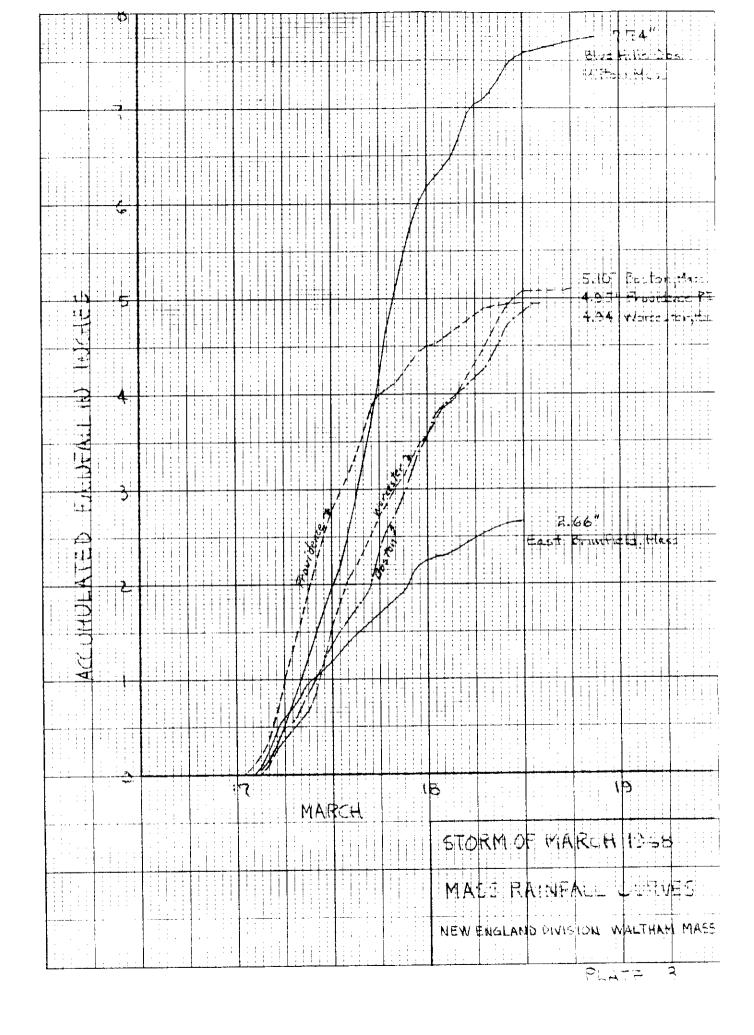
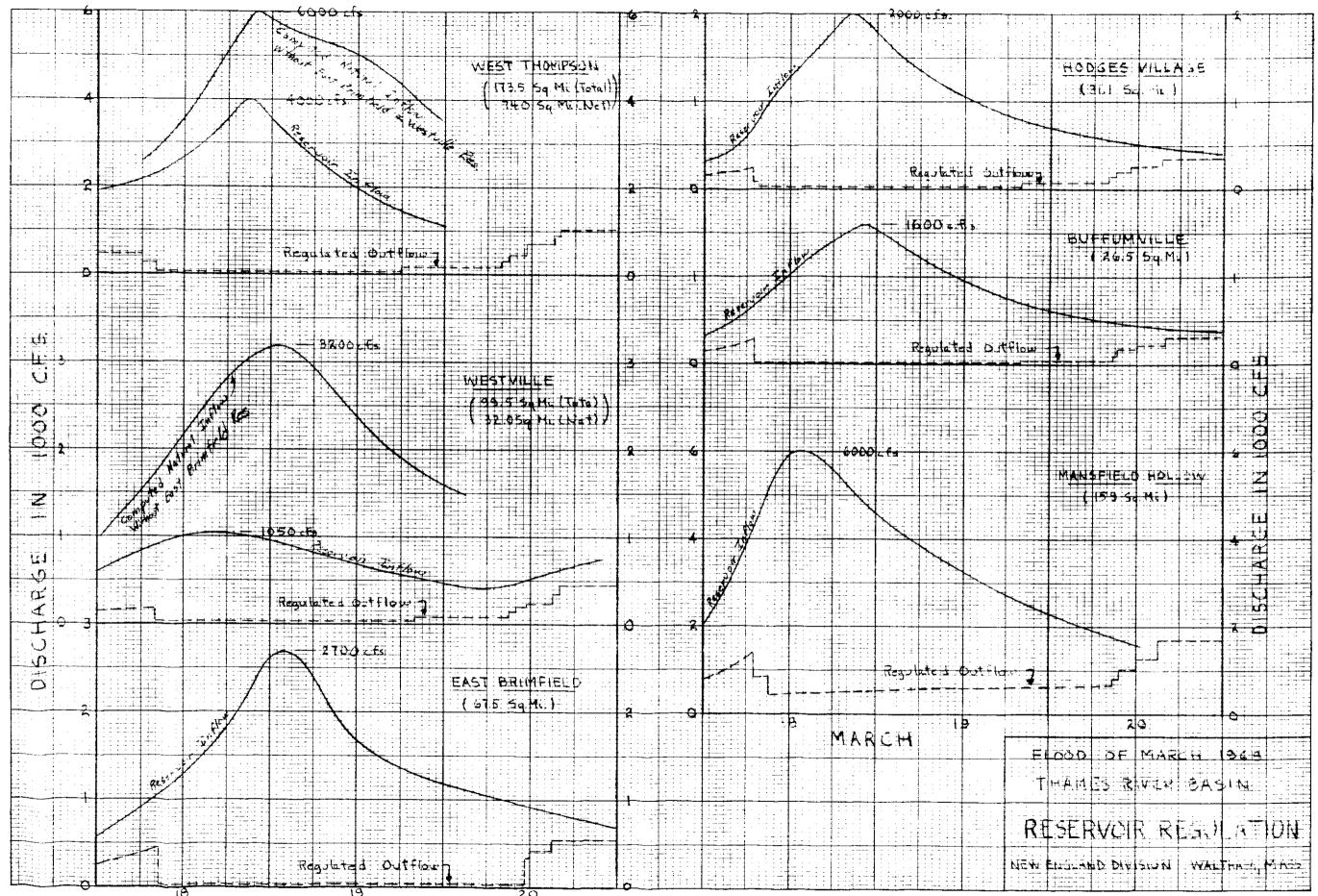
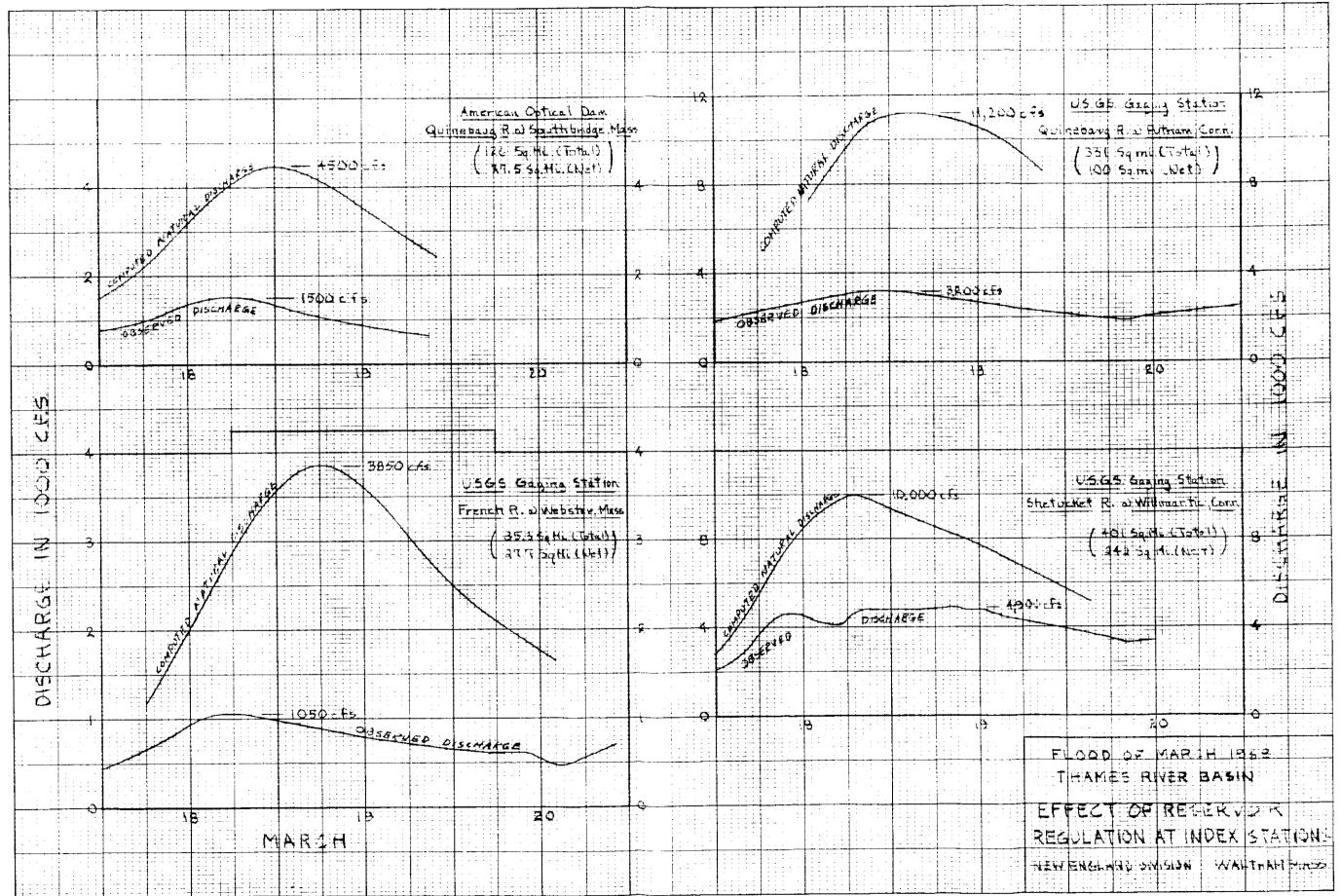
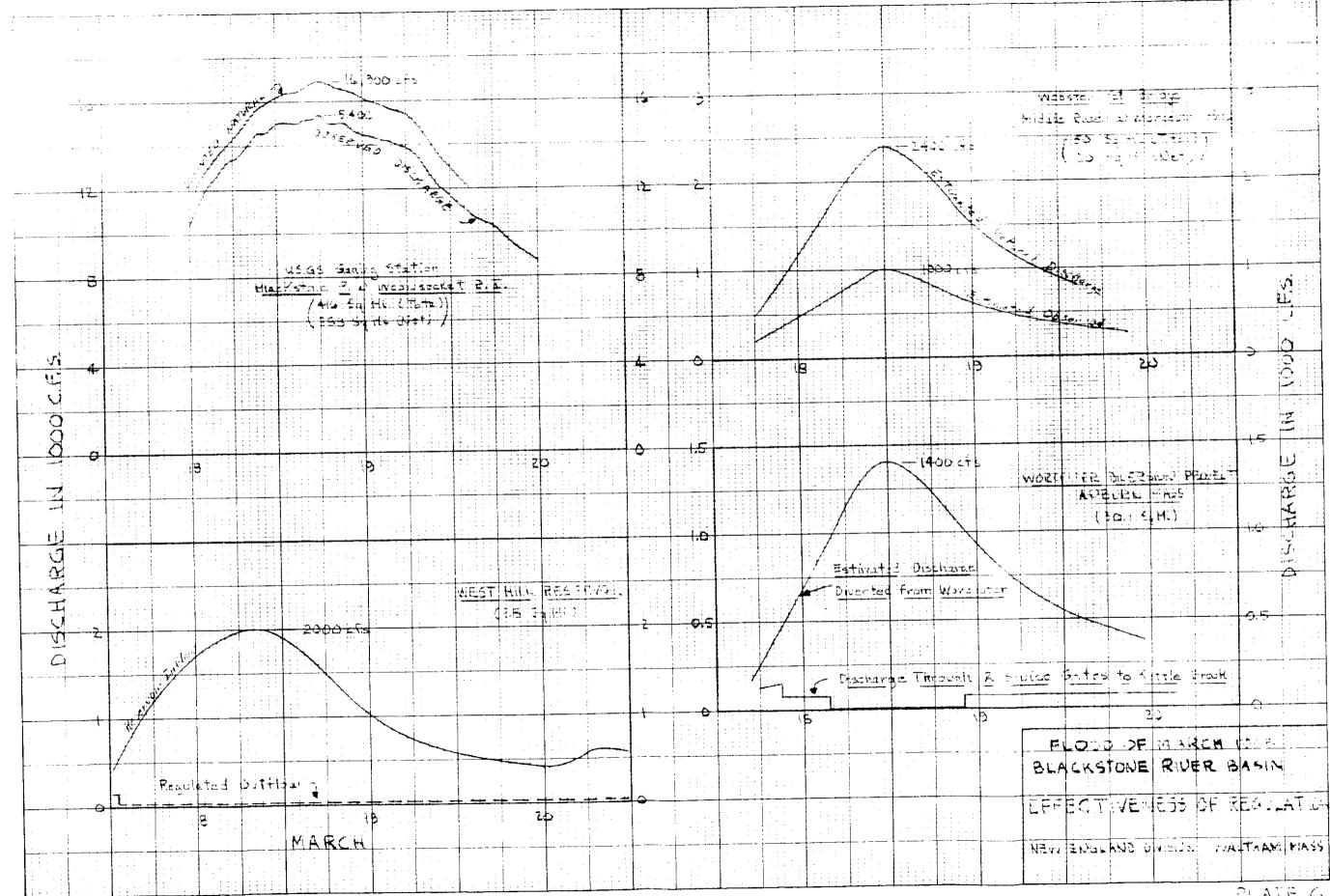


PLATE 2

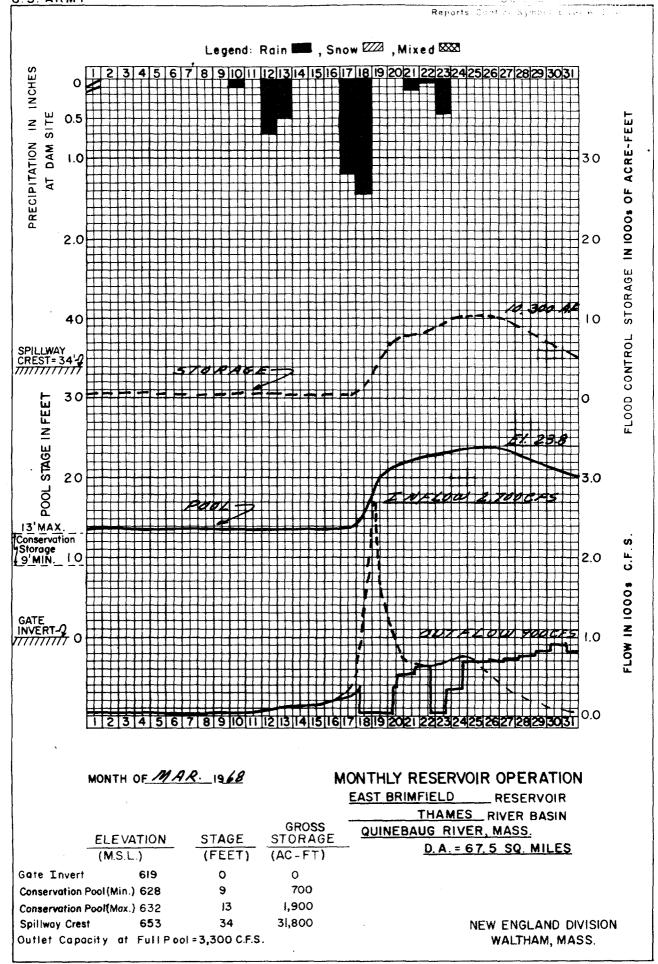


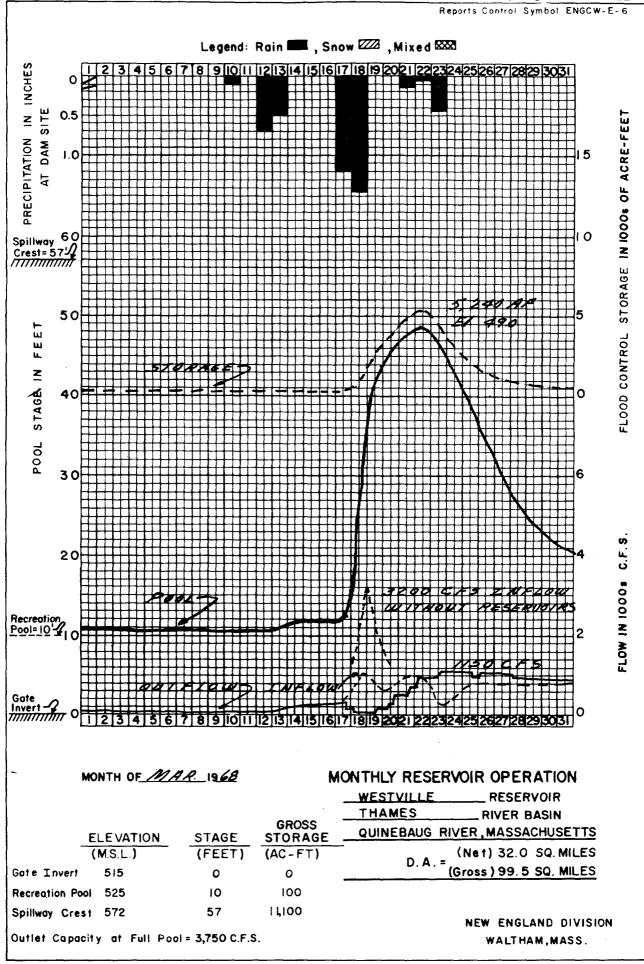


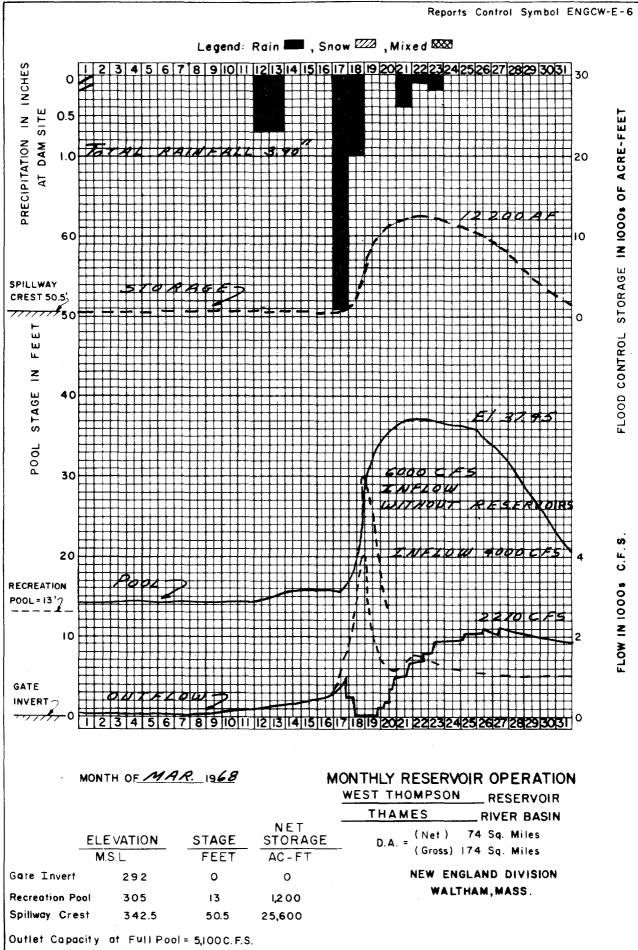


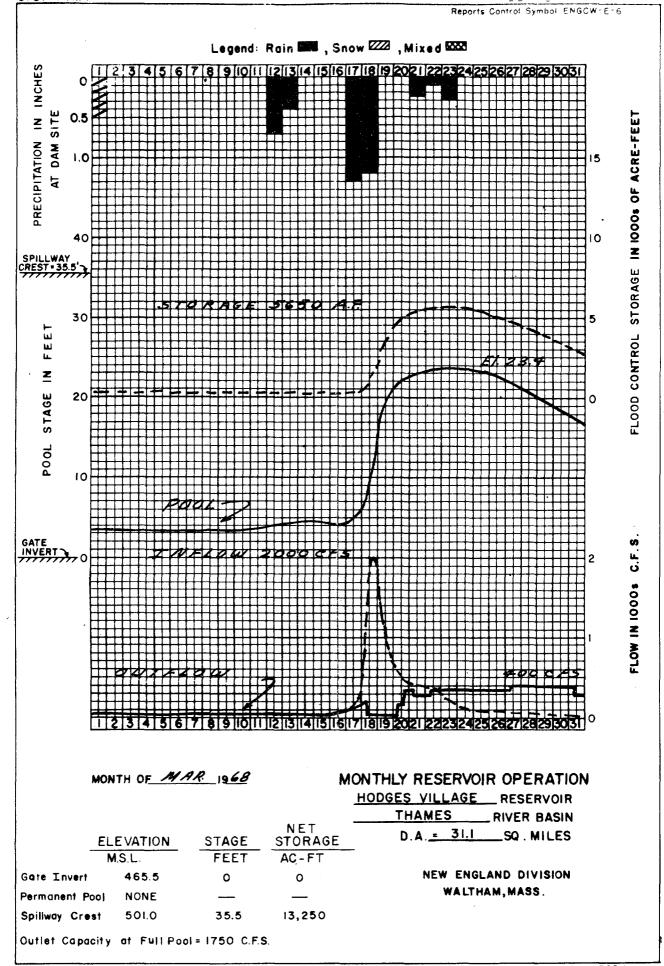


Outlet Capacity at Full Pool = 1480 c.f.s.









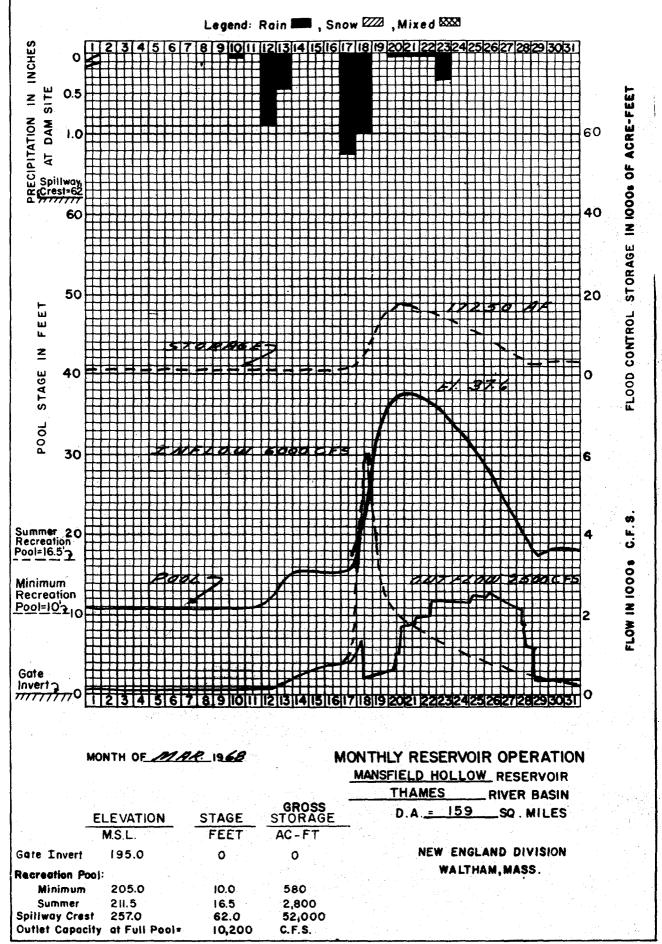
MONTH OF_	MAR. 1968
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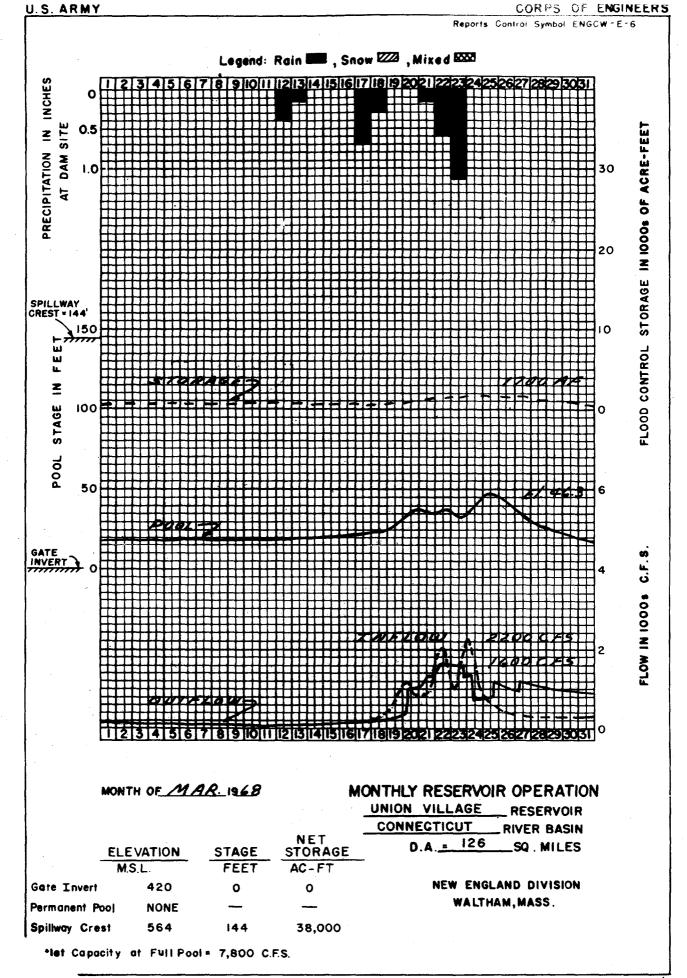
### MONTHLY RESERVOIR OPERATION

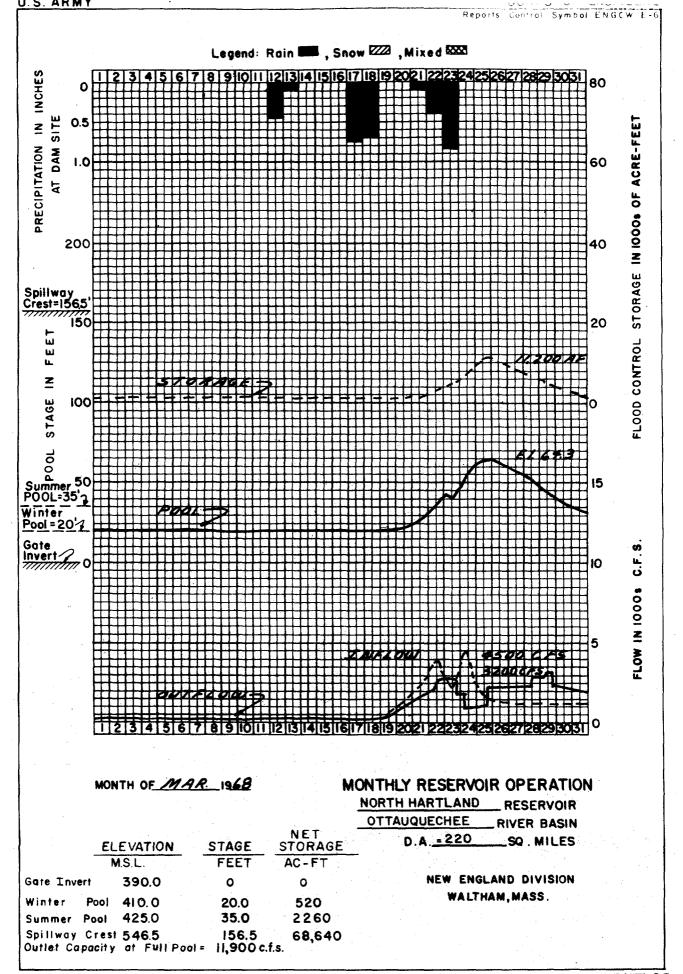
BUFFUMVILLE RESERVOIR
THAMES RIVER BASIN

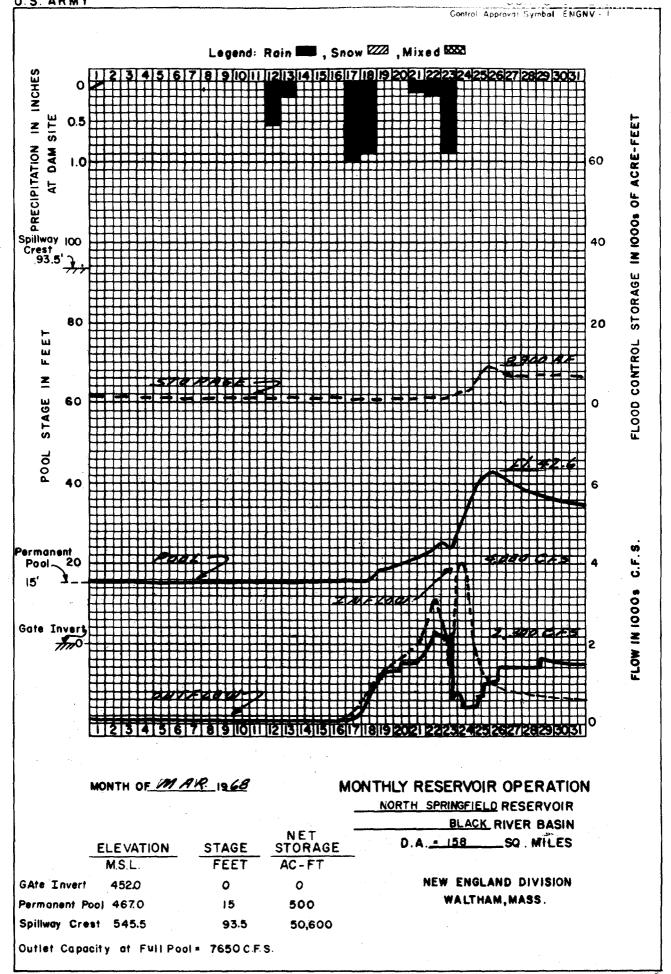
	ELEVATION	STAGE	NET STORAGE	D.A. = 26.5 SQ . MILES
<del>-</del>	M.S.L.	FEET	AC-FT	-
Gate Invert	481.5	0	o	NEW ENGLAND DIVISION
Permanent Po	ol 492.5	11.0	1400	WALTHAM, MASS.
Spillway Cres	t 524.0	42.5	11,300	
Outlet Cases	ia. aa Eull Daa	N = 1 000 0	T 0	

Outlet Capacity at Full Pool = 1,800 C.F.S.

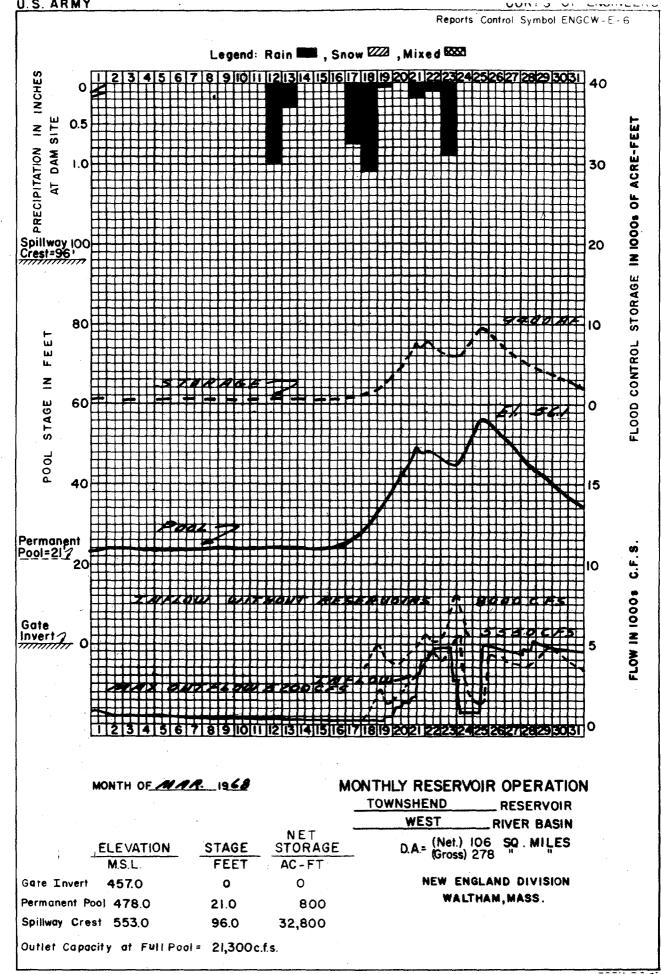


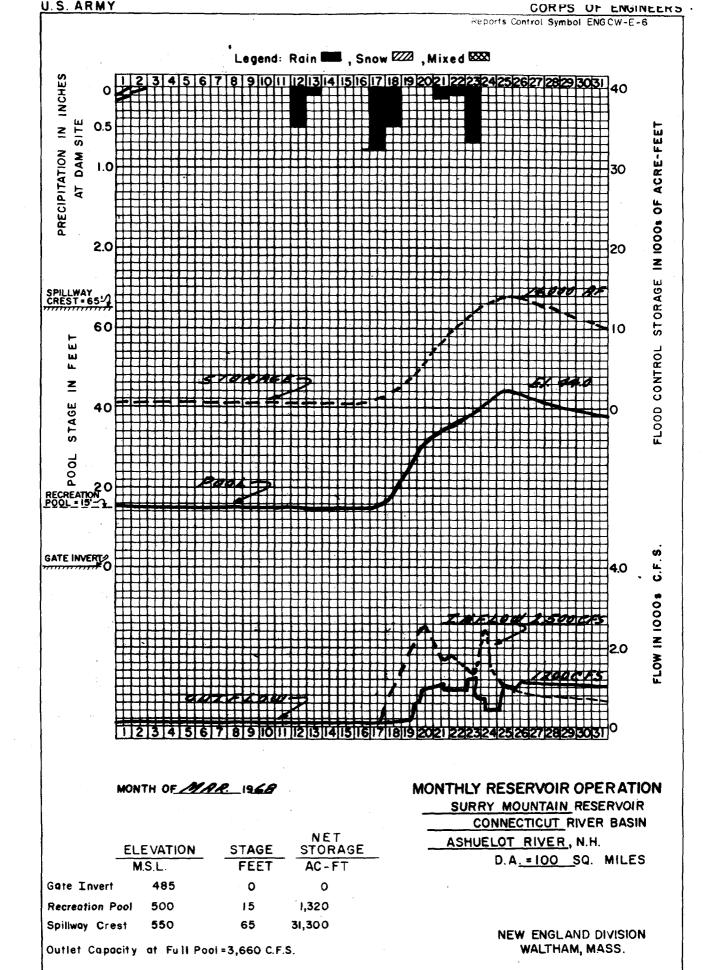




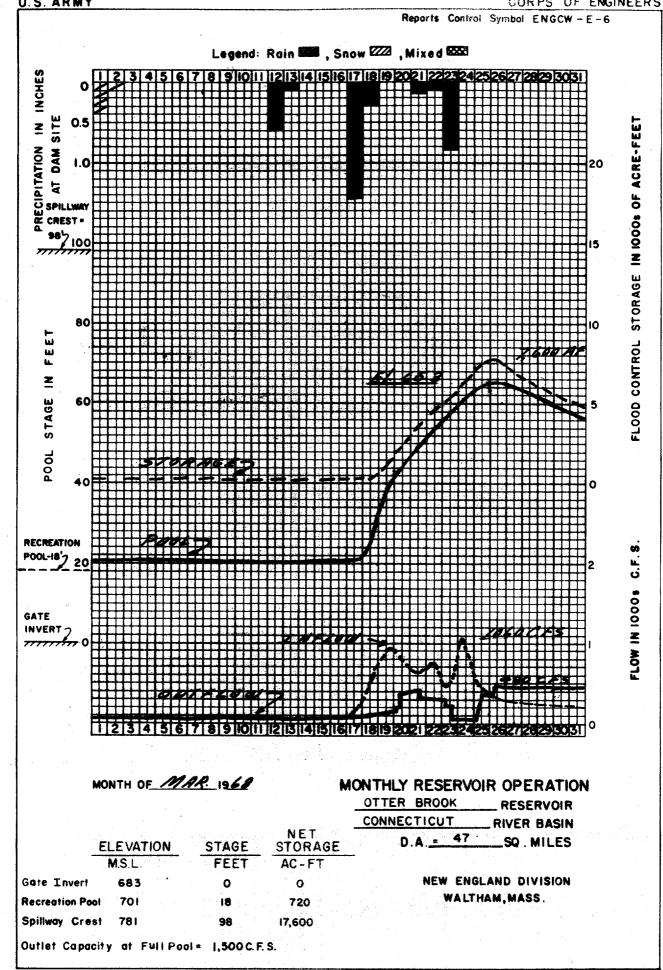


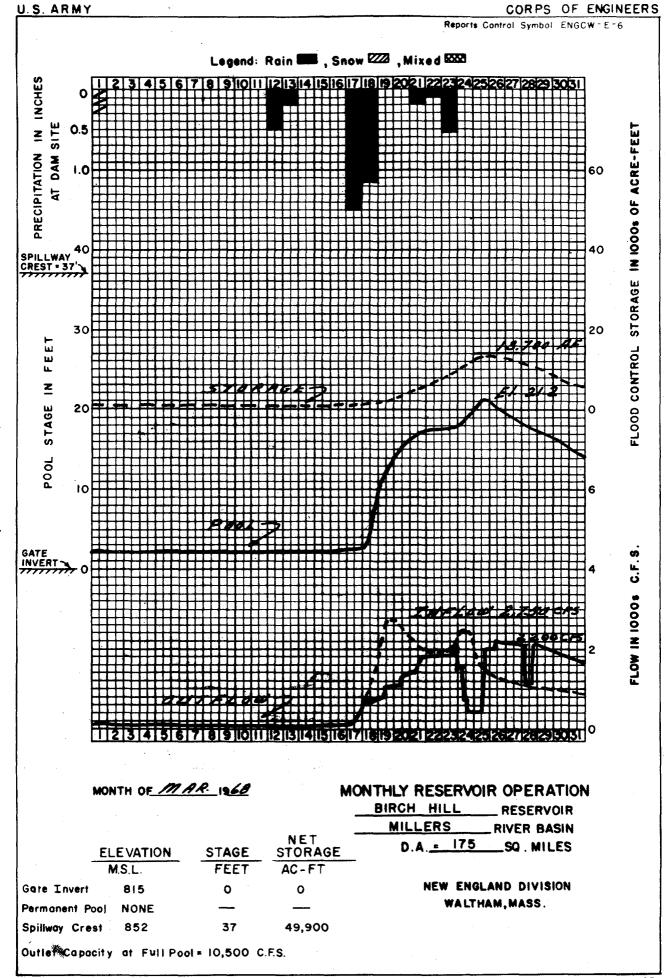
				BALL MOUNTAIN WEST	RESERVOIR RIVER BASIN
	ELEVATION	STAGE	NET STORAGE	D.A. =172	SQ . MILES
	M.S.L.	FEET	AC-FT	<b></b>	
Gate Invert	805.5	0	0	NEW ENG	SLAND DIVISION
Permanent P	001 870.5	<sup>′</sup> 65 <b>′</b>	2240	WALT	HAM, MASS.
Spillway Cre	st 1017.0	211.5	52,360		
Outlet Capa	city at Full Poc	n= 11,350 c.	f.s.		

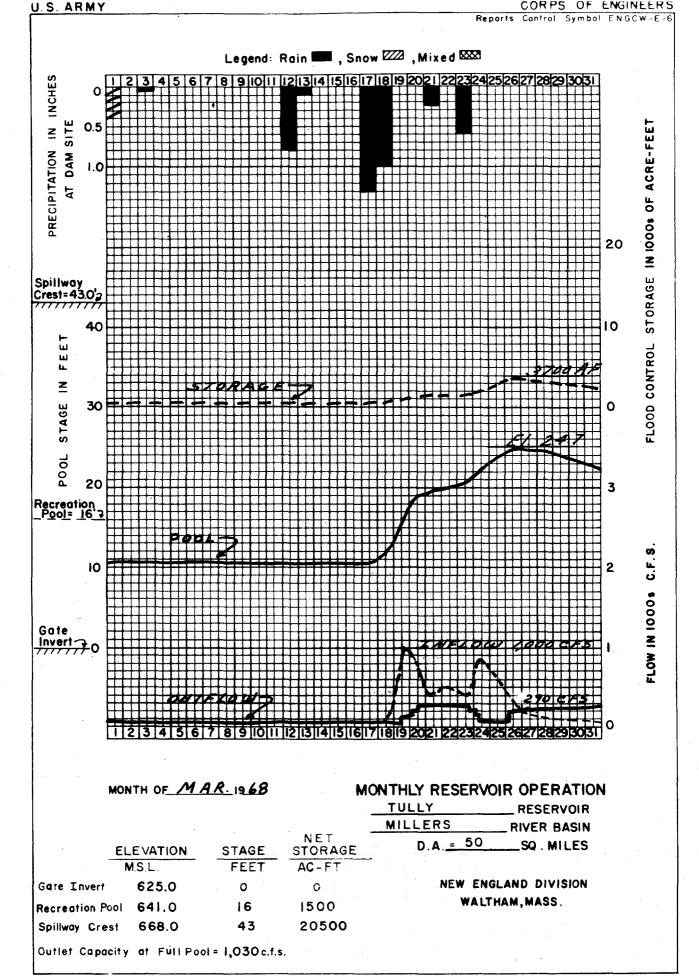


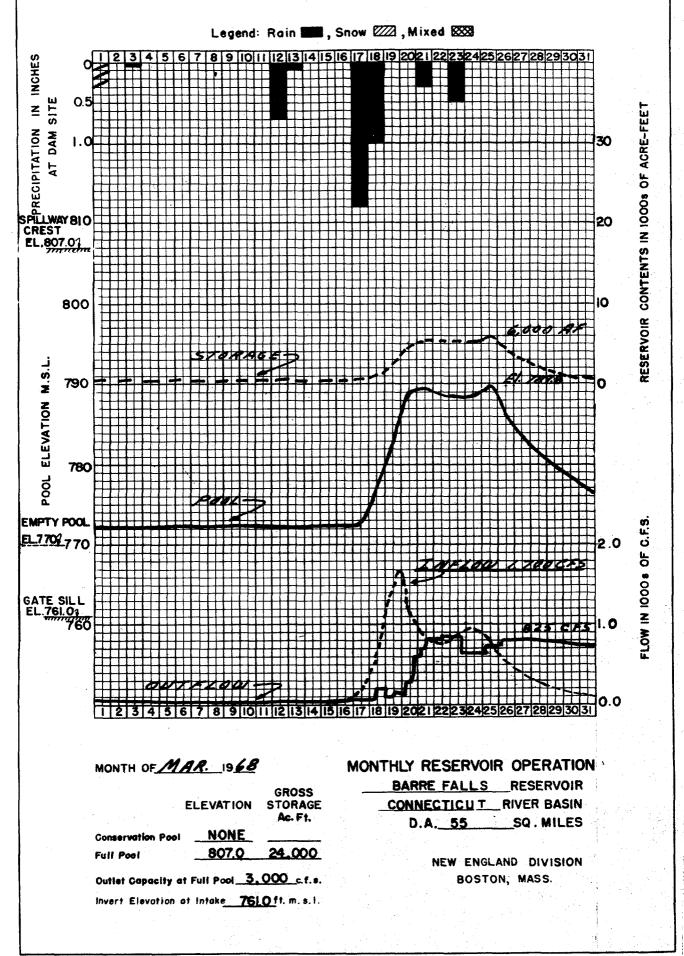


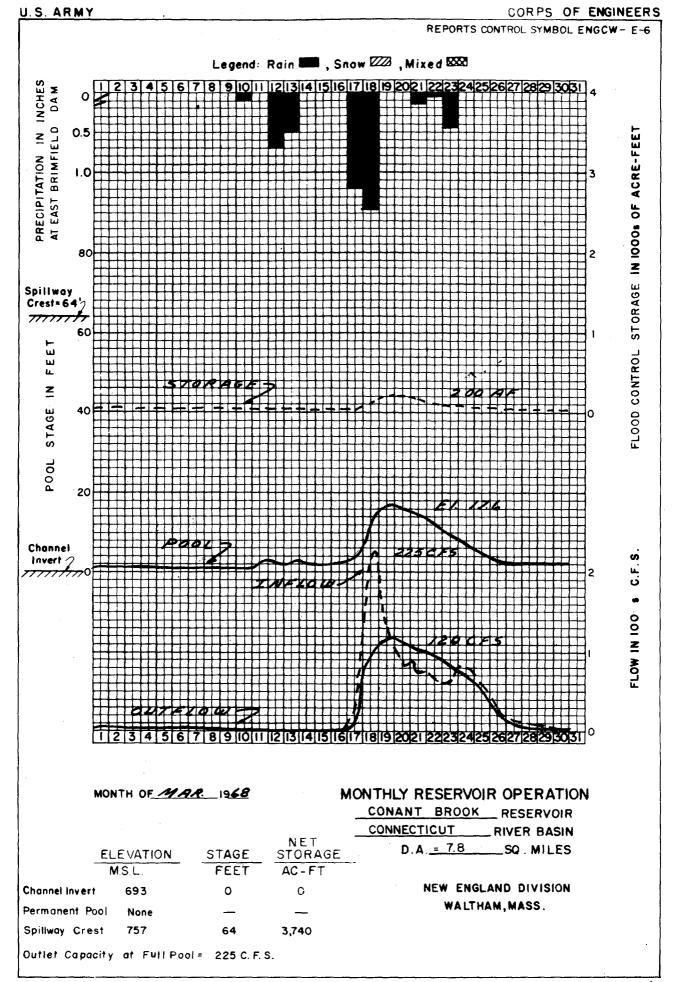
PT.	$\Delta$ m	₹ 1	9

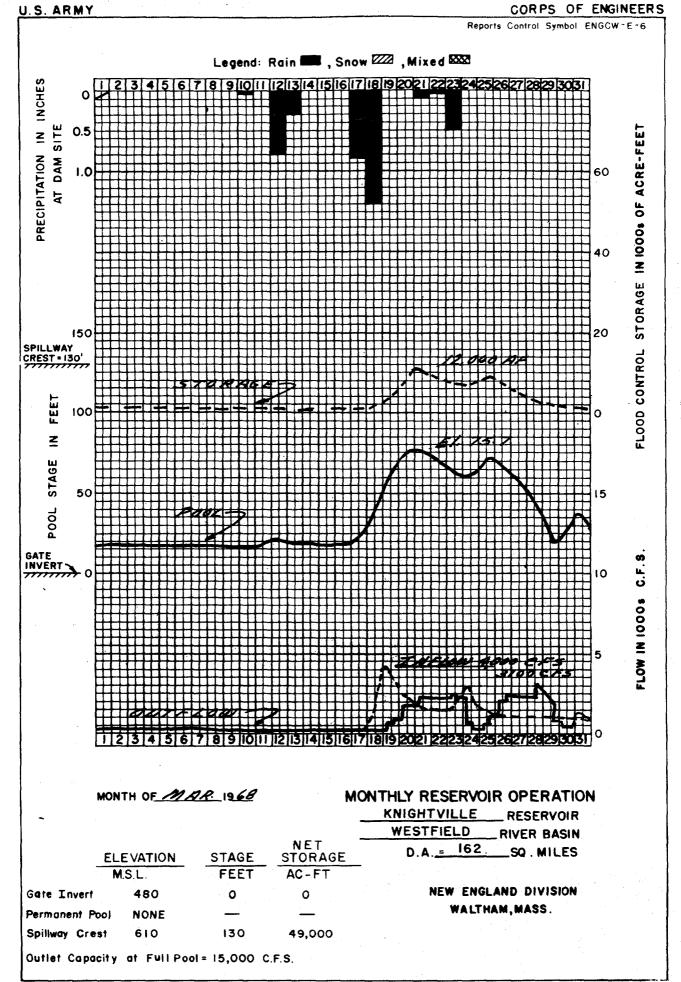


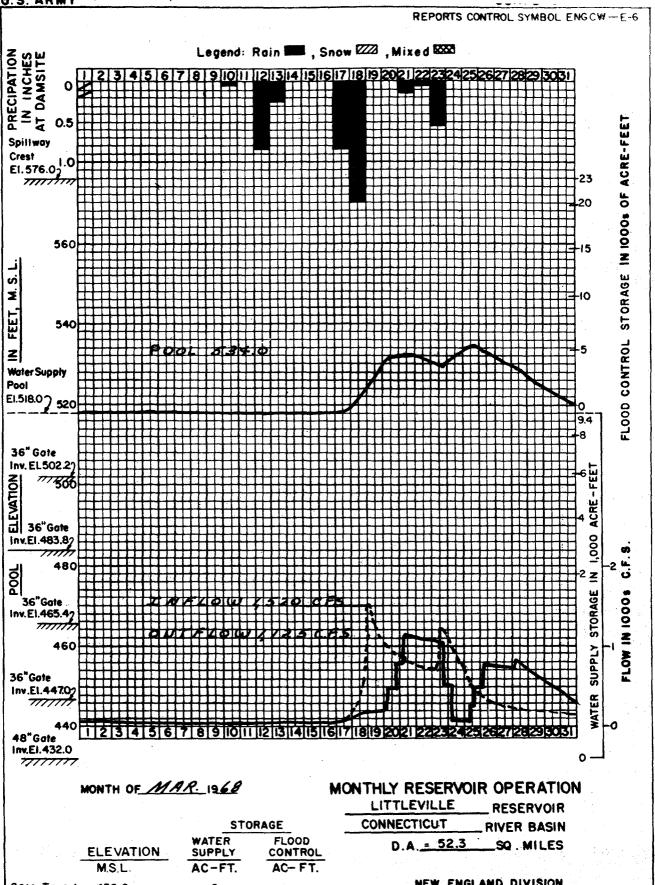








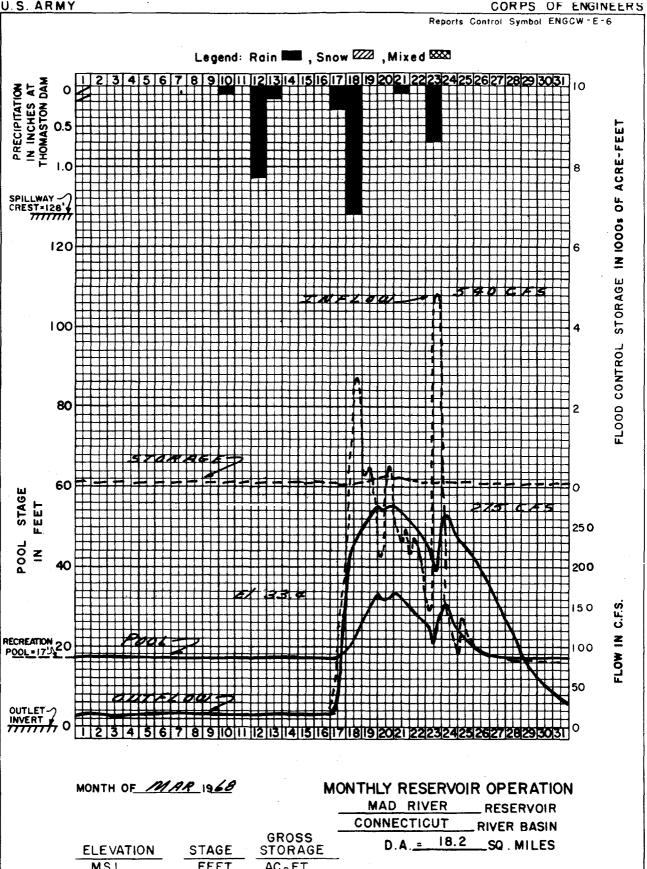




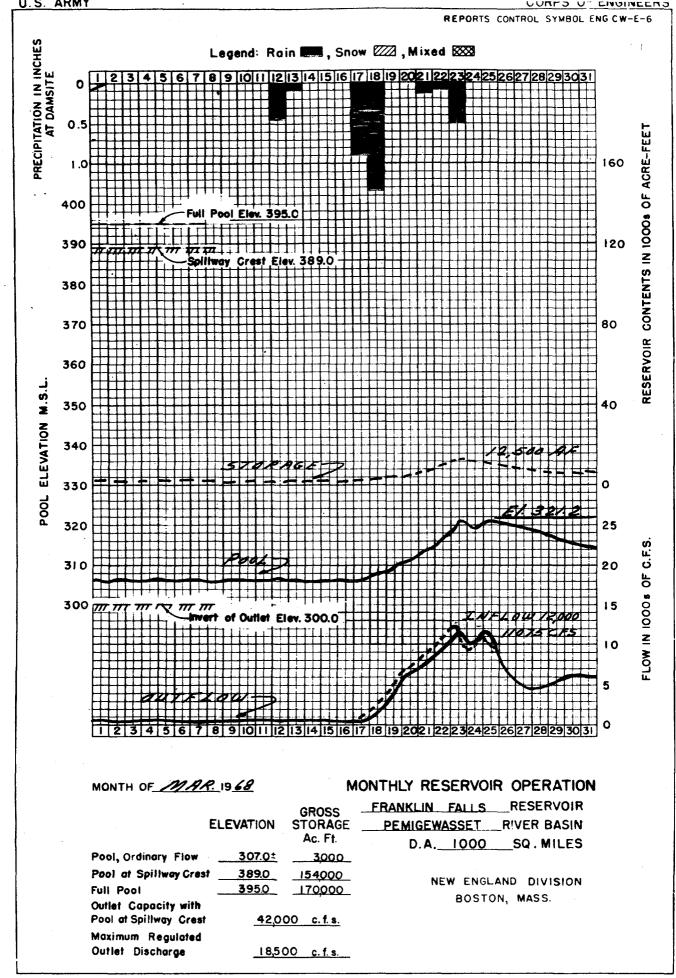
WATER SUPPLY	FLOOD
JUI . L.	CONTROL
AC-FT.	AC-FT.
0	-
9400	,0
	23,000
	AC-FT.

Flood Control Outlet Capacity at Full Pool = 2175 C.F.S.

NEW ENGLAND DIVISION WALTHAM, MASS.

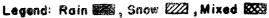


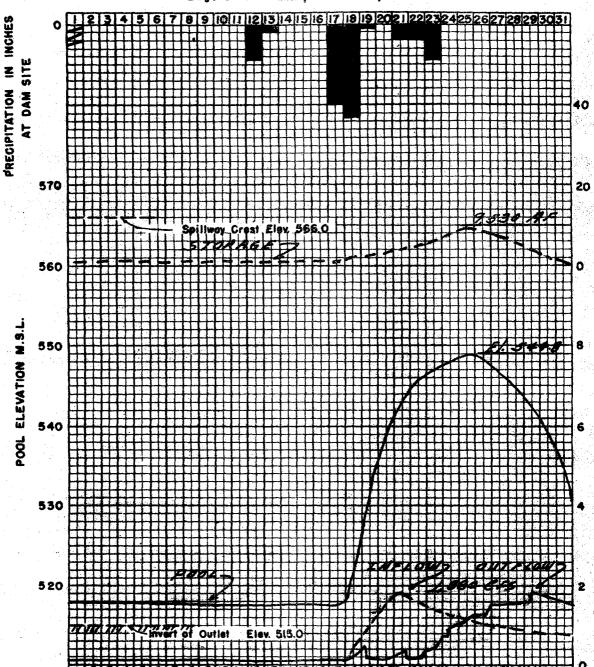
1				MAD RIVER RESERVOIR
				CONNECTICUT RIVER BASIN
	ELEVATION	STAGE	GROSS STORAGE	D.A. = 18.2 SQ . MILES
	M.S.L.	FEET	AC-FT	•
Outlet Invert	855	0	65	NEW ENGLAND DIVISION
Permanent Po	ol 872	17	190	WALTHAM, MASS.
Spillway Cres	1 983	128	9,700	
Outlet Capac	ity at Full Poo	l = 435 C.F.	S.	



RESERVOIR CONTENTS IN 1000. OF ACRE-FEET

FLOW IN 1000 OF C.F.S.





MONTH OF MAR. 1968

GROSS ELEVATION STORAGE

Ac. Ft.

aw Flow Peel 518.± 0
Full Peel 566.0 46,000

Outlet Copusity at Full Pool 2800 \_\_c.f.a.

MONTHLY RESERVOIR OPERATION

BLACKWATER RESERVOIR
BLACKWATER RIVER BASIN
D.A. 128 SQ. MILES

NEW ENGLAND DIVISION BOSTON, MASS.

U.S. ARMY Reports Control Symbol ENGCW-E-6 Legend: Rain 📟 , Snow 💯 , Mixed 🕮 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | STORAGE IN 1000s OF ACRE-FEET SITI PRECIPITATION 420 HOPKINTON SPILLWAY CREST EL. 416'-2 60 410 FLOOD CONTROL WEIR CREST CANAL NO.2 EL.400 777777400 ELEVATION 390 HOPKINTON PERMANENT POOL EL. 380 2380 FLOW IN 1000s 370 HOPKINTON GATE INVERT EL. 366' 77777777

### MONTH OF MAR. 1968

(PAGE | OF 2)

GROSS ST	ORAGE IN A	ACKE FEE!
Hopkinton Reservoir	Everett Reservoir	Hopkinton - Everett Reservoir
•		O

**GATE INVERT** 700 1,000 1,700 PERMANENT POOL 48,500 72,000 WEIR CREST-CANAL NO. 2 23,500 SPILLWAY CREST(HOPKINTON) 70,800 86,500 157,300 HOPKINTON OUTLET CAPACITY (POOL AT ELEV. 416)= 14,000 C.F.S.

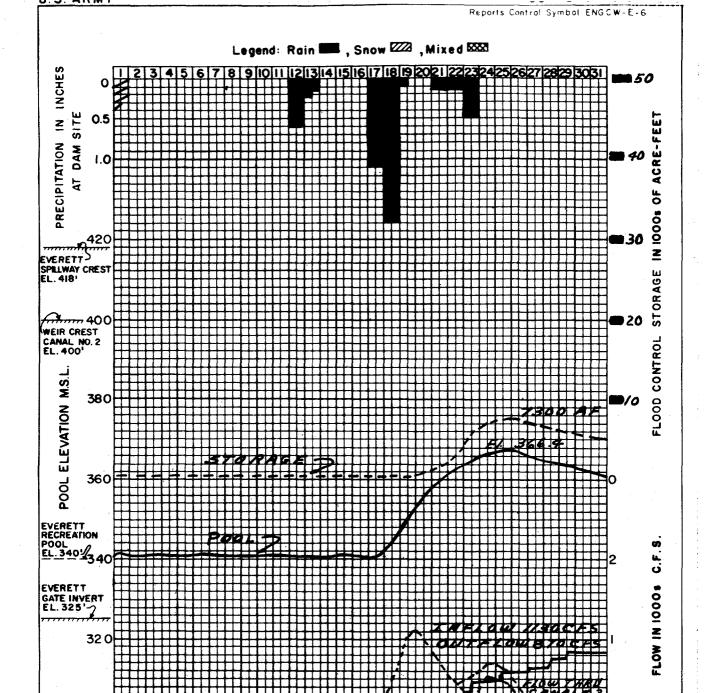
EVERETT OUTLET CAPACITY (POOL AT ELEV. 416)= 3,000 C.F.S.

#### MONTHLY RESERVOIR OPERATION

HOPKINTON - EVERETT RESERVOIR MERRIMACK RIVER BASIN HOPKINTON RESERVOIR CONTOOCOOK RIVER, N.H.

D. A. = 426 SQ. MILES

NEW ENGLAND DIVISION WALTHAM, MASS.



MONTH OF MAR. 1968 (PAGE 2 OF 2)

**GATE INVERT** 

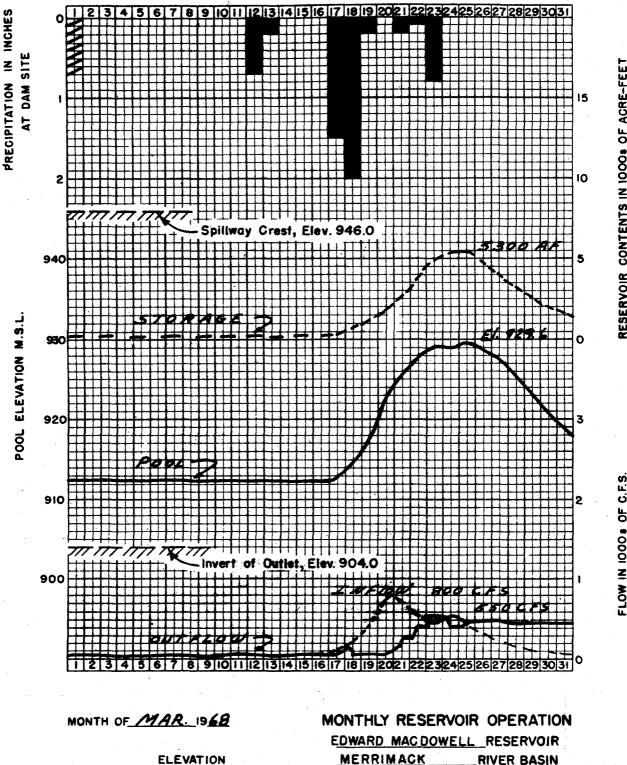
**GROSS STORAGE IN ACRE FEET** Hopkinton Hopkinton - Everett Everett Reservoir Reservoir Reservoir 0 0 0 700 PERMANENT POOL 1,000 1,700 48,500 72,000 WEIR CREST-CANAL NO. 2 23,500 86,500 SPILLWAY CREST(HOPKINTON) 70,800 157,300

HOPKINTON OUTLET CAPACITY (POOL AT ELEV. 416)= 14,000 C.F.S. EVERETT OUTLET CAPACITY (POOL AT ELEV. 416)= 3,000 C.F.S.

MONTHLY RESERVOIR OPERATION

HOPKINTON - EVERETT RESERVOIR MERRIMACK RIVER BASIN EVERETT RESERVOIR PISCATAQUOG RIVER, N.H. D.A. = 64 SQ. MILES

> NEW ENGLAND DIVISION WALTHAM, MASS.



D.A. 44 SQ . MILES

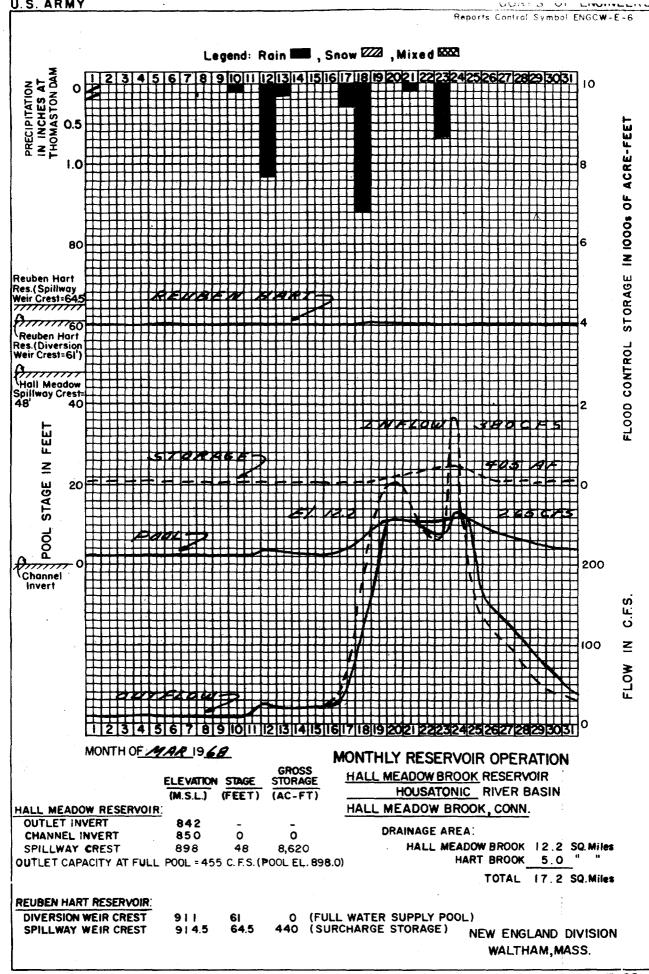
911.2 (Top of downstream flashboards)

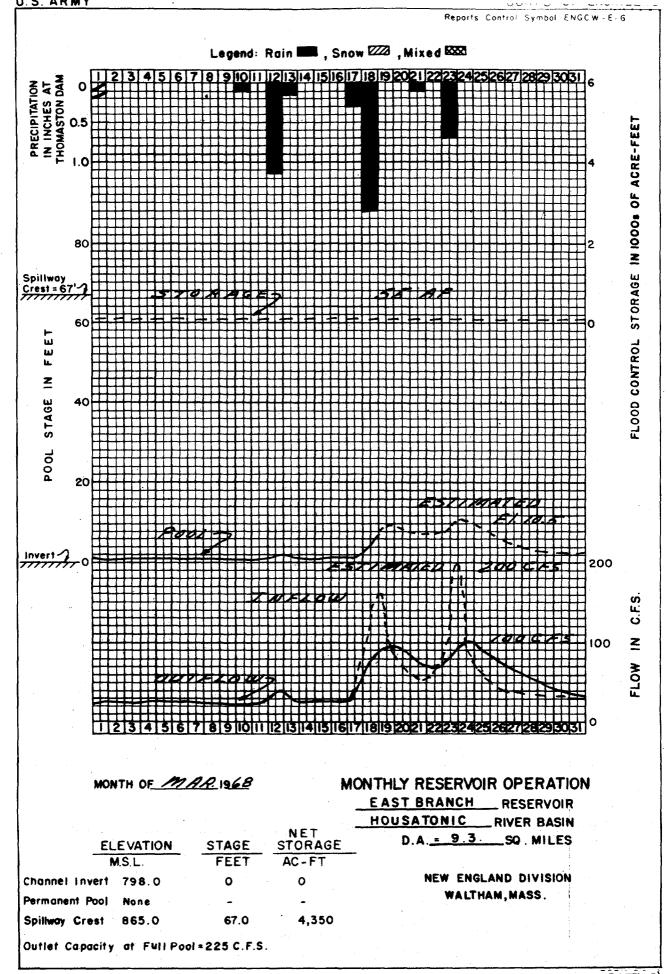
946.0 12,800 Ac. Ft.

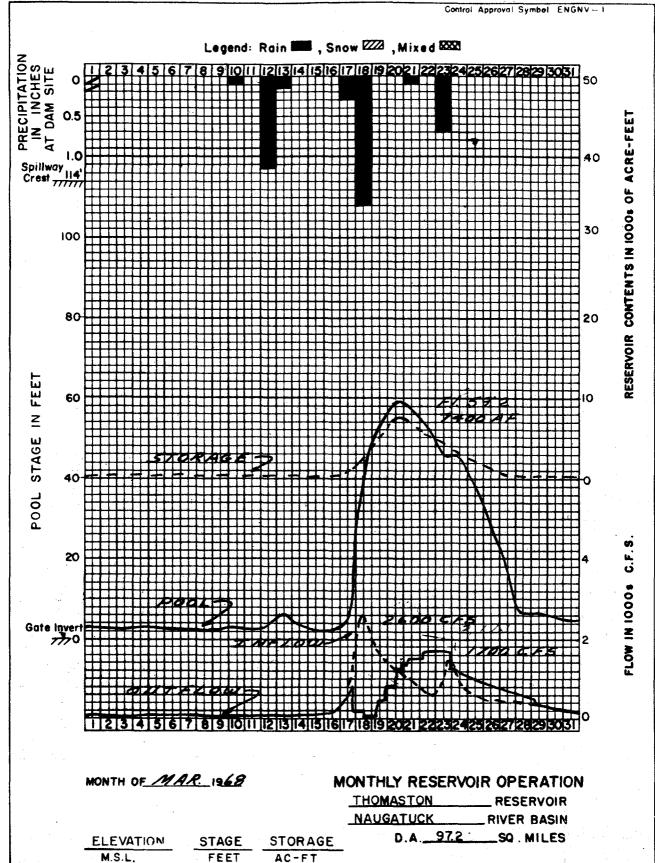
NEW ENGLAND DIVISION BOSTON, MASS.

Outlet Capacity at Full Pool 1760 c.f.s.

Invert Elevation at Intake 904.0 ft. m. s.t.

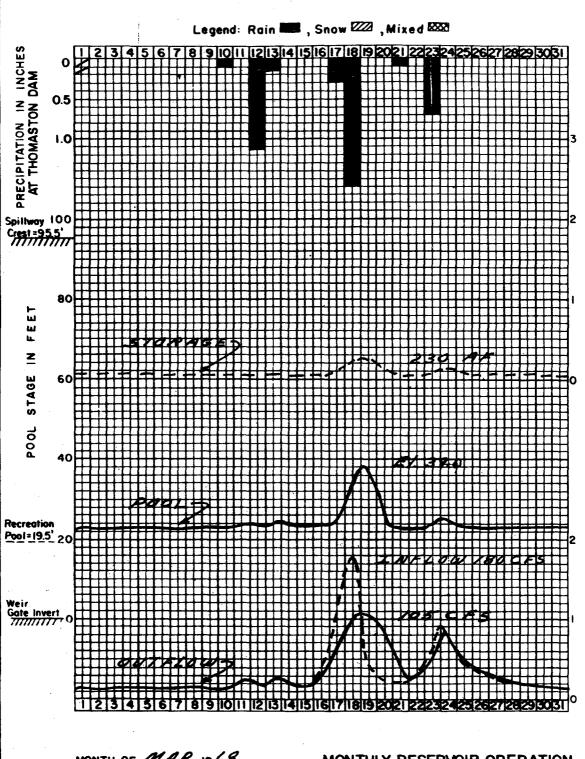






	ELEVATION	STAGE	STORAGE	D.A. 97.2 SQ . MILES
	M.S.L.	FEET	AC-FT	
Gate Invert	380.0	0.0	. 0	NEW ENGLAND DIVISION
Permanent Po	ool ——		None	WALTHAM, MASS.
Full Pool	494.0	114.0	42,000	

Outlet Capacity at Full Pool = 5500 C.F.S.



# MONTH OF MAR. 1968

# MONTHLY RESERVOIR OPERATION

HORTHELD BROOM	Z KESEKVUIK
HOUSATONIC	_RIVER BASIN
D.A. = 5.7	SQ . MILES

ELEVATION		STAGE	NET AGE STORAGE D.A	D.A. = 5.7
M.S	S.L.	FEET	AC-FT	
Conduit Gate Invert	476.0	-	•	NEW ENGLAND DIVISION
Weir Gate Invert	480.5	0	0	WALTHAM, MASS.
Recreation Pool	500.0	19.5	8 2	•
Spillway Crest	576.0	<b>95</b> . 5	2,350	
Outlet Capacity at	Full Pool	160 C.F.S.		

FLOOD CONTROL STORAGE IN 1000s OF ACRE-FEET

E	ELEVATION	STAGE	STORAGE	D.A. = 12 SQ MILES
_	M.S.L	FEET	AC-FT	
Channel Invert	454	0	0	NEW ENGLAND DIVISION
, Conservation Poo	460	6	130	WALTHAM, MASS.
Spillway Crest	484	. 30	3,900	

Outlet Capacity at Full Pool = 377 C.F.S.